

Ability Matters

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland

WORK4YOU

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is delighted to announce the commencement of Work4you!

Work4you is our exciting new vocational assessment service for people with an ABI and their employers in the Border, Midlands and West Region (BMW). The main aim of the project is to help people to retain their current job or to assist them to return to work, education or training after experiencing a brain injury.



Members of the new Work4you teams

The new service has been allocated over €1 million from the Department of Social Protection and the European Social Fund (ESF) under the Disability Activation Project (DACT). It is one of only 14 Irish projects to be successful in securing financial investment from this funding stream, until the end of April 2015.

In announcing the expansion of DACT, the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, and TD said "These funds of €7 million will be used to create linkages between employers and people with disabilities – this is crucial to ensuring that the untapped potential of people with disabilities is allowed to flourish and that they are enabled to participate fully in the labour market."

Work4you will support people with an ABI aged 18 - 65 who are living in the BMW region and are currently in receipt of Sickness or Disability Welfare Payments. All applications will be validated by the Department of Social Protection.

BMW region is made up of counties Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo & Westmeath.

Read more about Work4you and the Work4you Hubs & Teams in our Service Profile on page 3

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Social Enterprise in Cashel Opens!



Read more on page 4



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!

The Flora Women's Mini Marathon (10k) will take place Monday, 3rd June 2013. Sign up NOW ... Join Team ABI Ireland and have a day out with the girls!! Help us continue to provide vital services for people who have sustained a head injury.

First Register To Get Your Race Number:
Entry forms are now available in Wednesday & Saturday's issues of the Evening Herald or www.florawomensminimarathon.ie.
Closing date for registration is 17th April – but register early as places fill very fast.

Then Join the ABI Ireland team online
at www.iregister.ie/teamabi and we will send you a sponsorship pack



CEO Spring Message



'Keep on keeping on' was advice that was once given to me. It came at a time of desolation, and devastation. I was having a difficult time, and I was weighed down by what seemed to be a hopeless situation.

Well 2013 is, without a doubt, going to be a tough time. A year when the disability sector, yet again, fights for those who are most vulnerable. More financial cuts, more challenges, and harder times too for ABI Ireland, an organisation which is determined to reach out, support, and rehabilitate people affected by an ABI. Already, this year, we are being asked to provide services below cost price.

This news makes me want to shout "*But Rehabilitation pays its way.*" Rehabilitation takes people with ABI home to their rightful place, out of the nursing home or acute hospital trap. It is an investment in people which empowers them to achieve more; decreasing dependence and returning them to meaningful activities including work."

Rehabilitation can literally 'stand people on their own two feet'; restoring what has been shattered. It rebuilds families who are devastated in loss which in turn reduces the burden on caregivers. It also makes sound business sense, so let's think twice before cutting rehabilitation funding!

Under DACT, an investment of over €1million is being made in ABI Ireland, to provide clinically supported return-to-work programmes. It will restore power and dignity to people affected by an ABI, helping to return them to their rightful place in society.

In this austere climate, more than ever, we must invest in rehabilitation. There are those in the Department of Social Protection, the HSE and in Pobal who see this and who know the 'return on investment' and the 'value for money'.

So as CEO of ABI Ireland I say we will '*keep on keeping on*'

Barbara O'Connell



New name, same vision!

The Irish Epilepsy Association (Brainwave) has become **Epilepsy Ireland**.

The organisation has made the change in order to encourage people to speak more openly about epilepsy, to combat the stigma surrounding it and to highlight the condition rather than hiding it.

In launching the new name the organisations' Chief Executive, Mike Glynn, said "Unlike Brainwave, the name **Epilepsy Ireland** does exactly what it says on the tin!" He added "While our name is changing, our vision 'to achieve a society where no person's life is limited by epilepsy' will remain at the heart of everything that we do."

The organisations' logo the light bulb image together with the blue and yellow identity both remain in place. It represents shining a light on epilepsy, a theme that is used by many international epilepsy organisations.

www.epilepsyireland.ie

CRAIC AGUS CÍSTE Bake For Brain Injury

ABI Ireland has planned a lot of exciting things for people of all ages during Bake for Brain Injury 2013. Prizes include an overnight stay and food experience at the world famous Ballymaloe Cookery School, Co Cork and a chance to meet ex Ireland and International Footballer Paul McGrath.

So sign up NOW and join in the fun to support people affected by acquired brain injury.



www.bakeforbraininjury.ie

or call Martina on 01 2804164 Ext 231 mmahady@abiireland.ie



Tea for Two, Minister Kathleen Lynch TD pictured with ABI Ireland residents in Drogheda recently

WORK4YOU

“Supporting the progression and retention of people with an acquired disability”

Strand 3, Disability Activation Project (DACT)

Work4you is a new vocational assessment service for individuals and employers affected by an ABI. It has been set up by ABI Ireland, thanks to the financial investment of the Department of Social Protection and the European Social Fund under the Disability Activation Project (DACT).

It is the first community based neuro-assessment service of its kind in Ireland and will provide practical assistance and real hope for people with an ABI who are either struggling to hold on to their existing job or aiming to return to education, training, or employment. Funded until spring 2015 Work4you aims to:

- ✓ Complete 540 vocational assessments
- ✓ Complete 300 workplace assessments
- ✓ Return 162 people to education, training or work
- ✓ Sustain 48 people in education, work, or training 12 months post project engagement
- ✓ Provide ABI inform, education and training for employers/co-workers
- ✓ Complete research and evaluation of service

Key elements of the service are » Holistic Interviews » Vocational Criterion Work Sample Assessments » Workplace Assessments » Personal Progression Plans. Work4you participants, and in many cases their families, will be at the heart of the new service. They will be working to identify their own capacities, as well as areas of vocational challenge, in order to build on their vocational strengths. In addition they will be supported to build sustainable vocational bridges through developing community links and relationships.

Work4you Referrals

People with an ABI may refer themselves to Work4you and we are working to raise awareness of Work4you so that families as well as state agencies, community organisations and employers will be aware of it and become strong referral sources. The application process will include an eligibility check, through the Department of Social Protection, coordinated by ABI Ireland's referral contact in Northumberland Hall, Dun Laoghaire. Once the regional Work4you teams have confirmation of eligibility they will start working with the perspective participant. In the event of

someone not being eligible, or deciding not to take up a place on Work4you, the team will link them with appropriate community support or services.

The Work4you Teams

Steve Orme, one of ABI Ireland's four Regional Managers, is the Project Manager for Work4you. A vital part of Steve's role is to work closely with the DACT team in Pobal¹ who manage the project on behalf of the government. This helps to ensure that Work4you meets not only ABI Ireland's quality and standards, but also the Irish Government and ESF requirements for DACT funded initiatives.

Our Appreciation

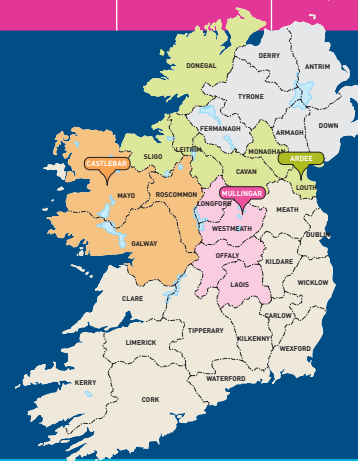
ABI Ireland would like to thank Pobal and members of the DACT assessment and management teams for their support of Work4you. We are also indebted to the staff and management of the NRH, in particular Catherine Logan in the Vocational Assessment Unit, for her belief in Work4you. We look forward to continuing to work with her and Edina O'Driscoll in the NRH's Vocational Training Unit to ensure new opportunities are created for people with ABI in the community.

Work4you will be officially launched in March 2013 and we wish each team all the very best over the next two years.

Work4you Hubs

Three Work4you hubs are located in counties Louth, Westmeath, and Mayo. The table below highlights each of these hubs together with their BMW region and list of counties each of the hubs supports.

BMW Region	Work4you Hub	Counties Supported
Border	Castlebar & Ardee	Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan & Louth
West	Castlebar	Roscommon & Galway
Midlands	Mullingar	Longford, Westmeath, Laois, Offaly



Work4you Referral Hub

Northumberland Hall, 13 Northumberland Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin
Tel: 01 280 4164 Ext 301
Email: work4you@abiireland.ie

Work4you Team Castlebar

Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co Mayo

- Steve Orme: Regional Manager & Work4you Project Manager
- Senior Occupational Therapist: Máiread Bradley
- Work4you Facilitators: Rosaleen Gaffney & Zoe Barnett

Work4you Team Mullingar

Marlinstown Business Park, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

- Regional Manager: Mary Heffernan
- Senior Occupational Therapist: Elaine Butler
- Work4you Facilitator: Louise Ward

Work4you Team Ardee

(Ardee Business Park, Ardee, Co Louth)

- Regional Manager: Donnchadh Whelan
- Senior Occupational Therapist: Maurice Harte
- Work4you Facilitators: Sinead Crawley & Rachel O'Leary

ABI Know How

Bearly Read Books – Cashel

An ABI Ireland Social Enterprise Initiative

ABI Ireland has just opened its first social enterprise, **Bearly Read Books**, in County Tipperary last December. Located at 4 Main Street Cashel, the shop provides people who have an ABI with the opportunity to work locally, on a voluntary basis. This really helps them make good progress with their individual rehabilitation plans (IRP) and also provides terrific ways to engage and integrate with local readers and businesses.



At work in Bearly Read Books (L-R) James Fogarty & Rene Kubrican

The bookshop is a partnership initiative with TÚS and members of the HSE ABI Team and it has three very enthusiastic and creative staff. It's the only bookshop in Cashel and as a result it has already earned great interest and support. The stock in the shop is both new and already loved and has been kindly donated, as a result of local advertising.

Lots of really hard work went into the planning, design and setting up of **Bearly Read Books** and everyone involved is naturally very proud of this great achievement. The bookshop team send a huge thank-you to all their supporters... the readers, donors, TÚS Staff, the HSE and local businesses. Special gratitude, for a most welcome generous donation, is also extended to Coolmore Stud, the international horse breeding organisation based in Fethard Cashel. The support of Bearly Read books, and in turn people with ABI, has been overwhelming.

We look forward to a busy year in the bookshop and remember if you are in Cashel please drop in the team would love to do business with you!

The Bearly Read Books Team, Cashel

Bearly Read Books is open Monday – Saturday (time 10am to 5.30pm excluding Bank Holidays). To donate books, bears or €€ contact kcunningham@abiireland or phone Katie on 06264544

Family Support Dublin

ABI Ireland services in Dublin North are hosting two ABI Family and Carers Support groups this season. On 2nd April the presenter will be Darina Kiely, Occupational Therapist and on 11th June it will be Clinical Psychologist, Sarah Casey; both are members of ABI Ireland's clinical teams. Each event will start at 2pm in Ballymun/ Whitehall Partnership building in Ballymun.

Those interested in taking part in the events should contact Stephanie Metcalfe on 087-2200227 or Laragh Farren on 087-6971750.

Great Growth in Wexford's Clubhouse

ABI Ireland's Clubhouse in Wexford is so popular that some of the groups attending the service have outgrown their current space, and are seeking a new location! We are now supporting groups for Men & Women as well as Cognitive and Arts groups and we have plans to start a new drama group in the coming weeks.



As well as providing ABI information and education the Clubhouse is giving our members an opportunity to improve their knowledge, acquire new skills, **and** have fun. Our picture shows the recent Cupcake Design Course which was so popular that another similar course is planned for Bake for Brain Awareness week, 2013.

A lot has been achieved, both individually and collectively in the Clubhouse. We only opened it in June 2012, through the support of United Worldwide Way Grant and the generosity of BNY Mellon, so we are very proud of how far we have come. Looking forward lots more fun and learning throughout the spring in Wexford.

Yvonne Rossiter
Local Services Manager, Wexford.



In May 2013, to coincide with the European Month of the Brain, the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) and its members will hold a month long series of events; aimed at promoting awareness of neurological conditions. ABI Ireland is currently planning to host or co-host a series of events and activities around the country throughout the month.

So to keep up to date with what's happening during the European Month of the Brain check out www.europa.eu | www.nai.ie | www.abiireland.ie

Neuro Hero

By Aviva Cohen

In 2006, my husband Steve had a stroke; he lost his ability to think, to move, and to speak. As the months and years passed we found ways to help him return to the man he once was. Today he can walk and think clearly. However there is one huge gap in his recovery. Due to severe expressive aphasia Steve can't speak, write, or learn to use recognisable gestures.

About a year after Steve's stroke, it became clear that he felt excluded when friends and family came and he stopped people from coming to our home. So we all shared in the isolation he had been experiencing. I quickly realised that social isolation is a common problem for people living with communication difficulties, as well as their families. I started searching for some solution to this problem, but the resources I found were limited, expensive, or required support from a therapist. I had no option but to come up with some way to help Steve and others with similar difficulties.

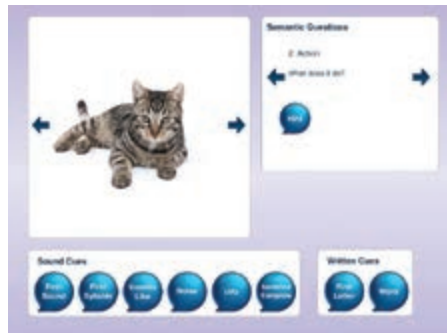
In 2011 I met my business partner Catherine Sweeney. Her creativity and technical ability helped us to shape this general vision into a range of home based rehabilitation apps, videos and support tools, for people living with communication difficulties. Together we created Neuro Hero. We are guided by our Speech and Language Therapist, Rachel Moore; she had worked with Steve and had helped him to overcome his desperate loneliness.

Our first app Match IT Food is now available in the App Store (€1.79). This is a matching task which aims to help survivors of stroke, brain injury and other conditions, who are experiencing severe difficulties with basic language skills. By March 2013 we will add a set of Talk around IT apps to the App Store, to help people with a range of word finding difficulties. It is based on a widely practiced speech and language therapy technique, Semantic Feature Analysis (SFA).

We are also getting ready to release the first set of our short videos to help friends and family learn how to interact with a loved one has a communication deficit. Each video takes less than three minutes to view and will cost no more than €2. They show how a conversation can go wrong and how to have more productive interactions.

We are very proud that in 2011 we won Impact award from Social Entrepreneurs Ireland in addition to receiving the Arthur Guinness Fund award.

For more information please visit our website www.neurohero.com



I suffered an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) in December 2010, when I had surgery to correct a brain aneurysm. Following my surgery, I was no longer able to drive and my rural location provided no access to public transport. Initially I had limited access to information or services to help in my recovery.

A few months later, I heard that a new Clubhouse had recently been set up by ABI Ireland in Castlebar, for people suffering from an ABI. In May 2011, I visited the Clubhouse and met with Imelda Walsh. She explained this facility would be running on a pilot basis, two days a week for the next year, and welcomed me as a new member.

Joining the Clubhouse was the start of my real recovery. I attended on Mondays and Wednesdays and, for the first time ever, Monday became my favourite day of the week! I was very fortunate to meet a great group of people who understood what it's like to live with an ABI. The Clubhouse meetings provided us with information, tips, and coping strategies. I realised that my memory problems, fatigue, and difficulties with facial recognition were all common problems experienced by people following brain surgery. However these could be overcome, which I found very comforting. I really enjoyed meeting up with other members, sharing stories, and hearing about their progress. We also took part in many organised activities such as digital photography, art, walking, and cooking which provided lots of entertainment as well as enhancing our skills.

Over the following year my health improved considerably and my confidence was also restored. A large part of this was due to the positive support and encouragement from ABI Ireland staff Imelda, Steve, and Alberto and the other Clubhouse members, whose optimism and good humour made attending the Clubhouse the highlight of my week.

I have recently returned to driving and to part-time work and I am so grateful to ABI Ireland for providing this facility in Mayo and assisting me in my return to independence.

ABILITY Matters would like to thank the writer, a current Clubhouse member, who asked not to be named.



Painting with Passion

Ann O'Connell had a brain stem stroke in 2004, she was just 37. She has spent prolonged periods in both National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) and Limerick's Regional Hospital. Life has presented Ann with a great number of challenges for many years. Then in 2007, while she was back in the NRH, she discovered a love of painting. Now, as she says herself "painting is my passion" She recently exhibited her work at the Source Arts Centre in Tipperary and feels that her art not only gives her a sense of self-worth but also earns her the respect of others. Ann acknowledges the support she has had from ABI Ireland, in her social worker particular Linda Buck. *We all wish Anne continued enjoyment and fulfillment as an artist.*

ABI Ireland: HR Quality & Standards

Staff Profile

By Siobhán Campbell
National Office,
Dun Laoghaire



I came to ABI Ireland in 2003 thinking I was joining a small organisation. Little did I know that 10 years later I would be part of a team of over 240, with services in almost every county.

Based in ABI Ireland's National Office my original multifunctional role as Office Manager and Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive was not sustainable and in 2012 my job was split. I now concentrate on the role of Office Manager which includes Administration, Information Technology (IT), Facilities Management, Procurement and Data Protection.

My role now also includes IT Lead and Project Administrator on the many projects that the implementation of the IT strategy plan encompasses; HR Information System, Client Management System, Donor Management Systems, Website and Information Technology processes.

When I joined ABI Ireland it felt like I had come home. That hasn't changed. This is where I belong and I look forward to seeing the fruits of the IT Strategy Implementation. A temporary IT Project Manager was appointed to assist with the operational side of the IT plan which is great for the organisation. This is helping to ensure that ABI Ireland's IT infrastructure and processes are future proofed for both staff and clients.

I enjoy the diversity of my job. No two days are ever the same - except that there are simply not enough hours in them!

Siobhán

Gillian Hill

It is with sadness that we report on the death of Gillian Hill one of the first residents in ABI Ireland's, recently opened, service in Co Louth. Gillian experienced serious health difficulties since contracting meningitis in 2003 and cancer in 2012. However she had been determined to remain positive and had even set up a Facebook page "On My Way Forward", to let people know about her progress since moving into Lisrath. However on 4th January her health deteriorated again and she died, aged just 34.

Sincere condolences are extended to Gillian's family and friends. *Ar dheis dé do raibh a h-anam*

Wexford Rises to RTE's Challenge

Pictured opposite are some of the eleven people in ABI Ireland Wexford who have signed up to the RTE Operation Transformation challenge. The competition is on as they work hard to make positive lifestyle changes, by eating healthy food and exercising every day. We wish them all the very best in this challenge, which hopefully they will tell us more about in our summer issue of **ABILITY Matters!**



Induction Training, Dublin



Names L-R: Rachel Dunne, Damien O'Boyle, Tracey O'Brien, Abbi McCarron, Philippa Towers, Ciara Byrne, Eugene Murphy

In February, new ABI Ireland staff completed a five day induction programme in Dublin. A second induction programme also took place in Limerick in early March. The participants were from a broad range of services and locations including the Midlands, Wexford, Clarecastle, Castlebar, Macroom and Dublin. The group also included staff from three of ABI Ireland's newest services, the Residential Rehabilitation service in Drogheda, the 'Pathways' Genio

funded Community Living project in Dublin North and the 'Work4you' DACT funded activation programme. We wish the participants every success in their new roles.

2012 Family Satisfaction Survey

Every year ABI Ireland carries out satisfaction surveys with a cross section of the family members and carers of the people accessing our services. Separate surveys are conducted with individuals with ABI accessing the services and with our funders HSE.

It is part of our Quality Assurance process, getting the views of family member to help us to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all the people in our services. The outcomes of the 2012 survey have now been analysed and will be used to maintain and improve the quality and standards of the range of services we offer.

The majority of respondents rated the services between very good – excellent.

Services are individualised & tailor for people with an ABI	98% agreed
Staff are professional, supportive and approachable	98% agreed
Families have opportunities to make complaints or raise concerns	98% agreed
Goals achieved through supported individualised plans	100% agreed
Residential services are homely in appearance and feel	100% agreed
Relative treated with dignity and respect	100% agreed

Full survey results are available in ABI Ireland services.

In late 2012 we distributed 278 confidential postal survey forms across each of our four regions. We received a response rate of 39 % (108), which was an increase of 5% on numbers of responses received from this group in 2011. The feedback from the survey was very positive and helps the organisation to continue to focus on individual needs of people with an ABI.

Sincere thanks to every family member and carer who took part in this survey

ABI Ireland: People & Places

Heineken Cup Success

By Alma O Grady and Cian Daly, Mid-West Region

The 20th January 2013, one of the coldest days of the year was an exciting day for everyone in the ABI Ireland residence in Ballinvoher, County Limerick. We got kitted out in our warmest clothes and donned the red of Munster before heading to Thomond Park¹ to watch the Heineken Cup match between Munster, and the French side Racing Metro.

The day was made more exciting by the fact that Munster needed to score four tries to get to the quarter finals of the cup

At the stadium we received a warm welcome from the Thomond Park staff who led us to our seats. The atmosphere was electric, both staff and residents gave a rousing rendition of Stand up and Fight and 'The Fields of Athenry' during the match. We urged the team over for every one the five tries scored and it made Alma's day to see her favourite player Donncha O'Callaghan on the field.

After the victory we left the stadium 'a happy bunch', content with **OUR** Heineken Cup success!

¹ Home of Munster Rugby, redeveloped in 2008 to accommodate up to 26,500 supporters



Munster supporters Eugene, Alma, Sinead, and Derek in Thomond Park, Limerick.

Martin's Acting Debut

Our own Martin Whelan made his acting debut this February, starring as Father Ted in a comedy sketch performed in the NCBI¹ Iona Centre, Dublin. Martin put great effort into his role and, despite some pre-performance nerves; he not only remembered his lines but also managed to keep his audience laughing. When the acting had ended we were all treated to a lovely lunch by our hosts.

Well done Martin and thanks to everyone involved in making it a very enjoyable day.

Emer O'Shea ABI Ireland, St Mobhi Road, Glasnevin

¹ NCBI: National Council for the Blind Ireland



Tim Powell

ABI Ireland would like to extend sympathy to Brí on the death of Tim Powell, co-founder of Kerry Brí and a great advocate for people with an ABI. Tim's presence illuminated all those around him and his expression in words and song was an inspiration. His humbleness will never be forgotten. **Tim, thank-you for the lovely moments and memories and rest in peace.**

Floral Art Support in Waterford



Pictured above are members of the Waterford and Tramore Flower Arranging Club who demonstrated their talents last winter, in support of ABI Ireland. A cheque for €1,200 was presented by club member Anne Flanagan to ABI Ireland representatives, Team leader Gaye Chikwe (1st left) and Waterford resident Christopher O'Brien (centre). Sincere thanks are extended to the club for their support and generosity.

Thank You Kilmacud Musical Society



Sincere thanks to Dublin's Kilmacud Musical Society for raising €1,313 for ABI Ireland, by singing Christmas carols in Dundrum. Our photograph shows Eamonn Murphy (Centre) presenting the cheque to Local Service Manager, David Buxon. Eamonn who played a key role in the event is a brother of Noel (centre right) a resident in ABI Ireland's services in Dublin. Also photographed are other residents and staff from the Glenageary based service.

Team Work in Roscommon!

A big Thank you to members of Rahara Rovers Soccer Club, Tremane GAA Club, Athleague Hurling Club, Fuerty GAA Club, and Roscommon Soccer Club. They organised a great fundraising event for ABI Ireland and raised €2810 towards local services.

We really appreciate their support.

Imelda Walsh

Diary Dates

Please note the following events in your diary and tell friends, family and colleagues too!

- March: Work4you starts.
Contact Steve Orme on 086 384 6004 for further information
- March 11-17th: Bake for Brain Injury
www.bakeforbraininjury.ie or phone Martina on 01 2804164 Ext 231
- March 15th ABI Ireland, Donegal hosting an ABI awareness and information stand in Carndonagh Shopping Centre Inishowen.
Contact Michelle Lagan mlagan@abiireland.ie
- March 30th ABI Ireland, Donegal hosting a Coffee Morning in Clara House, Killybegs.
Contact Michelle Lagan mlagan@abiireland.ie
- April 17th: Closing date for registering for June 3rd Flora Mini Marathon.
See www.floraladiesminimarathon.ie
- May: International Brain Awareness month. Various events planned see www.nai.ie
- May 9th DEADLINE for submissions to Summer ABILITY Matters. Send to abilitymatters@abiireland.ie or contact Christine Flynn on 01 280 4164 Ext 201
- May: Sunday 19th at 3pm, Letterkenny Community Centre for the 5K walk/run.
Early registration essential as large crowd expected.
Contact Brendan Peoples on 083 4168 367
- June 3rd: Dublin Flora Ladies Mini Marathon. See front cover ABILITY Matters

Sports Injuries & ABI Conference

December in Dublin's Aviva Stadium
European Brain Injury Society's (EBIS) Annual Conference co-ordinated by
EBIS member organisation ABI Ireland . . . Full details coming in next
Summer's ABILITY Matters.

Details will also be posted on www.ebisociety.org & www.abiireland.ie

**SPLISH SPLASH
I TOOK A BATH
FOR ABI IRELAND!**



Congratulations to Erin Clarke, ABI Ireland staff member in St Mobhi Road, Glasnevin who has just won herself a €20 gift voucher as the winner of our winter photo caption competition. Sincere thanks to Erin and to each of our readers who entered the competition

ABI Ireland Links

Our readers may find the following links & resources useful

• ABI Ireland	www.abiireland.ie	01 280 4164
• Bri	www.briireland.ie	01 235 5125
• CARF	www.carf.org	
• Epilepsy Ireland	www.epilepsyireland.ie	01 455 7500
• Headway Ireland	www.headway.ie	1890 200278
• National Rehabilitation Hospital	www.nrh.ie	01 235 5000
• Pobal	www.pobal.ie	
• Work4you	work4you@abiireland.ie	01 280 4164 Ext 301
• NAI	www.nai.ie	01 872 4120

See also www.abiireland.ie for full list of related links

ABI Ireland National Office

Ph: 01 280 4164
E: info@abiireland.ie

East / North East Region

Ph: 01 280 4164
E: eastnortheastadmin@abiireland.ie

West / North West Region

Ph: 091 700 210
E: westnorthwestadmin@abiireland.ie

Midlands / South East Region

Ph: 062 64544
E: midlandssoutheastadmin@abiireland.ie

Midwest / South Region

Ph: 066 714 2993
E: southmidwestadmin@abiireland.ie

ABI Ireland has just opened 3 new Work4you
Hubs in Ardee, Mullingar and Castlebar

Work4you Occupational Therapist Contacts:

Ardee, Maurice Harte
087 130 7366

Castlebar, Mairead Bradley
087 690 8231

Mullingar, Elaine Butler
087 695 1004

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Follow us on Twitter [@ABIireland](https://twitter.com/ABIireland)

and check out www.abiireland.ie

Circulate & Communicate

Pass ABILITY Matters to your
friends, family & community. Now

A message from the Editorial Team

ABILITY Matters Your Newsletter,
For You...By You...With You

"Where flowers bloom so does hope"

Lady Bird Johnston

Spring is here! It's not just in our gardens and window boxes locally, it's evident right across the four ABI Ireland regions. This season we are thrilled to report on the new growth in our existing services as well as the green shoots of a brand new model of service, Work4you. New beginnings, they bring with them the promise of great opportunities for people affected by ABI and communities in which we live .

If you have a story of hope or optimism or plans to start something new, share it with readers in the summer issue of ABILITY Matters?

abilitymatters@abiireland.ie

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