



# WSI News

Volume 29, Issue 1 Spring 2025



## Peace Proms

### Casey Quinn

Peace Proms is a Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland initiative celebrating music, youth and unity for the past 30 years.

I sang with my school choir,



Holy Rosary, Wicklow, at the Peace Proms in the RDS on Sunday 2 February 2025. I went on the bus to the RDS with my friends.

I practiced with my choir in

school for a long time. I enjoyed the Peace Proms because I liked the music and the dancing.

There were lots of songs like "The Riddle", "Hey Brother" and "Shake it Off". There was a lady called Lauren who sang "The Voice" with us. There was a musical medley, a dance medley, and a pop medley. I loved the dance medley – every song. I had fun doing the dance moves. My favourite song was "Manic" (maniac, maniac, on the floor)!

The orchestra was huge, and I saw a white electric guitar, a big drum, trumpets, trombones, violins and flutes. There was a conductor with a baton flicking it around to help us know when to sing and when the musicians should play.

There were Irish dancers and dancers with light up sticks.

We bought the DVD and we watched it and I saw myself on TV. Isn't that amazing.

I had fun and I want to do it again next year and every



time. I loved it so much. My favourite moment was seeing myself on TV.

**Casey Quinn (age 10)**

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## A Day at the Zoo

See Abby Kane's Report Inside



## MART Arts Exhibition

### Alan Keady

**"We are now busy preparing for our work to be in the Galway International Arts Festival in July this year ."**

I am one of 10 artists who attend Brothers of charity day service in Arts Alive in the city from Monday to Thursday . We do a variety of things every day and we go out to other exhibitions . We do a lot of art, electronic music, healthy programme, preparing for exhibitions . We have a lady called Jane who has been working with us doing digital art.

We decided in early 2024 to put an exhibition of each of our work into the Galway Barboro Festival in October . We called it



"Identity".

Each of us designed a piece and I worked on the theme of "Cogs & Wheels". Jane worked digitally on it and interviewed me about my life . We got the pictures framed in colour and also got them mounted for people with limited vision . We projected all onto a wall in the exhibition space . We had a great attendance .

We got funding for this and we were invited by MART to bring Identity to Dublin . We were so excited .

We all came to the open day and had lots of people visit .

I was over the moon when some of my Williams Syndrome friends came (see photos) . Thanks to you all.

Elisa from Italy was in

Dublin with her parents visiting her brother who works in Dublin and that was a huge surprise.

We are now busy preparing for our work to be in the Galway International Arts Festival in July this year . The University of Galway are sponsoring us . We have new stuff that we are working on now . So it would be great to see some of you there . I really love what I do every day and I also work on getting bus home and going to the shop for my lunch .



## Alan's Trip to the Aras

### Alan Keady



My Moms friend contacted her in early December 2024 to say she had an invitation to the Aras for 14th December and had 2 tickets for us . I always wanted to go to see President Michael D Higgins in Aras an Uachtarain. I couldn't believe it and it was also Moms birthday .

We had a fabulous day . We went through many rooms and saw pictures of all the other Presidents. There was lots of Irish music and dancing. We got to meet Santa and he gave me a gift for my Christmas tree.

We went to the Douglas Hyde room where there was lots of food and drinks and more music and dancers . Then the President and his wife Sabina came in and gave a speech. He left but his security team said he would meet people later. There were carols around the tree and then we went inside for tea & cakes. We

were waiting for the President to come and he did . We got a lovely photo with him & Sabina and he spoke to me . He asked where I was from and he said I looked great . He needed two walking sticks to move about .The Aras is very big but we only saw some of it . I was so delighted to meet Michael D as President as he will retire this year . He is a great man.



## A Day at the Zoo

### Abby Kane

We went to the zoo on March 29th. It was a bit cloudy and it rained before we got there. We waited outside until all our group was together. We met up with lots of Williams Syndrome Families. Then we met up with our Tour Guides inside the Zoo. They brought us around to see lots of animals. We saw different types of monkeys, apes, penguins, sea lions and so much more animals.

For lunch we went to the Meerkat Restaurant. We all sat at a long table. We had sausages, chicken or fish and chips. Then the families split up to see some other things. We went to see a dinosaur trail and the African Plains. We saw giraffes, rhinos and zebras. There was a place where you could see all the night time animals. This was really dark inside.

We had an ice-cream as a treat. I had a big cone and Izzy and Harry had a small cone. After all the walking we had tired feet but it was a great day! I cant wait for the next day out!



## Williams Syndrome Ireland

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## WSI Annual General Meeting In Pictures Tom Moylan

This years Annual General Meeting of WSI was held in the Sligo Park Hotel. This year we combined the AGM with our annual Weekend Break. This provides a great setting to combine the formal business of the association with a weekend for families to come together. Also to share in the fun and relaxation while sharing their experiences of the Williams Syndrome journey.

The committee was delighted to hold this event in the North West and we were delighted with the large turnout of families at this time of the year. Our intrepid WSI photographer (Dearbhail) managed to snap most of the families who attended, as shown in the collages on this page. I won't mention everyone's name as it would take too long. In short you all know who you are!!

Thanks again to Pauline for the Bingo night which always provides a nice way to kick off the weekend. On the Saturday Dearbhail organised a yoga and pilates session which provided a welcome opportunity for relaxation on a busy weekend.

Another highlight was the WSI task force who managed to nab Gaelic Football legend Pat Spillane for a photo shoot! See below. Special mention to the task force members, Rosanna, Alan, Donal, Eoin and Robbie for a great photo.

The Committee elected for 2025 is as follows;

Chairman—Stephen Langton

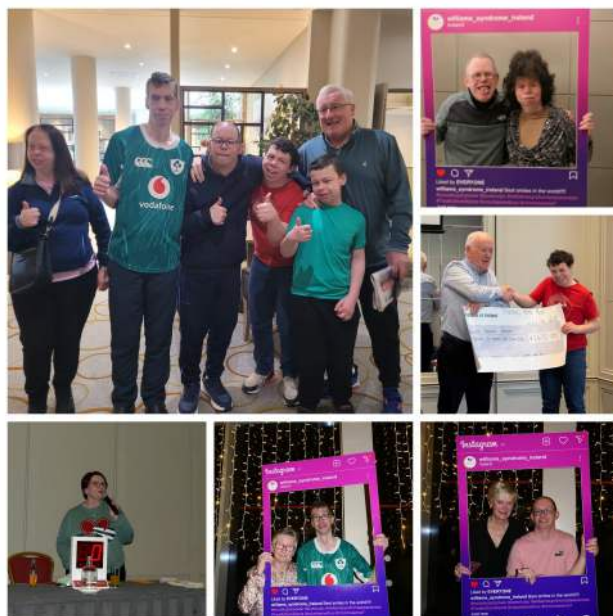
Secretary—Linda Kane

Treasurer—Dearbhail Mullan

Committee Members: Pauline Leahy, Paula Ormiston, Helena Begley, Lynsey McMahon, Phil O'Hagan

Associate Committee Members; Brian Ahern, Tom Moylan

The WSI committee is very pleased to welcome Lyndsey McMahon to the Committee this year.



## Another Big Year for Eoghan Tom Moylan



This year Eoghan raised 7,670€ for

There's no stopping that boy from Ardee. Eoghan McCabe has continued his phenomenal success as a charity organiser. His fantastic achievements were highlighted at this year's St Patrick's Day parade in Ardee

which featured the man himself on a vintage tractor. As the picture on the left shows Eoghan's Home Run has raised over 100,000 Euro for good causes including incredible support for the work of WSI.

Williams Syndrome Ireland and he is shown on the previous page handing over a cheque to Stephen at our AGM in February,

Well done Eoghan!!

## Upcoming WSI Events for 2025

For those of you who missed our announcements at the AGM here is a list of the remaining planned WSI events for 2025.



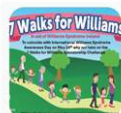
**16 April Visit Johnson & Johnson Site**  
Little Island, Cork  
(see next edition for full report)



**1 June - VHI Women's Mini Marathon** - Merrion Square, Dublin



**26 September - Over 18s Weekend Away** - Castlebar, Mayo



**May - 7 Walks for Williams**



**24 May - Summer Picnic** - Clonfert Farm, Kildare



**24 June - Fionnuala's Adult Camp** - MIC, Limerick  
**25 June - Fionnuala's Baby Camp** - MIC, Limerick  
**30 June - Fionnuala's Junior/Teen/Sibling Camp** - MIC, Limerick



WSI will announce dates for further events well later in the year.

## Assisted Decision Making

Tom Moylan



seirbhís tacaíochta  
cinnfeoireachta

decision support service™

The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 establishes a new legal framework for supported decision-making in Ireland. It allows people to make legal agreements on how they can be supported to make decisions about their personal welfare, property and affairs. These new regulations may help you, if you don't have the capacity to make decisions, now or in the future, without help.

You lack the capacity to make a specific decision if you are unable to:

- Understand the information relevant to the decision
- Retain information long enough to make a choice
- Weigh that information in making the decision, or
- Communicate your decision

You do not lack capacity simply because you need information to be explained to you in an appropriate way considering your circumstances

The Decision Support Service is a public service that promotes the rights and interests of people who may need support with decision-making. The Decision Support Service:

- Regulates and registers decision support arrangements

- Supervises the actions of decision supporters
- Review and investigate complaints

You can contact the Decision Support Service on their website at [www.decisionsupportservice.ie](http://www.decisionsupportservice.ie)

Decision support is important for the key decisions being made by a person in areas such as property matters and personal welfare. All members of the public can avail of the Decision Support Service which mainly provides its services on-line but they can also be contacted by phone, post or email where required.

In certain cases it may be important to register your decision support arrangements. In particular it may be important to understand how key services view decisions and the role of carers in that decision making process. For example an issue may arise when a service provider or a bank asks who is deciding an issue pertaining to a person with special needs and may require that the issue is formalised via the decision support service.

In most instances the decision support arrangement for people with special needs can be registered by accessing the online portal and the process is simple and straight forward. To date more than 3,000 decision support arrangements have been registered with the

## WSI Thank You Cards

Dearbhail Mullan

WSI are delighted to issue our new Thank You Cards, designed using artwork from our members at the 2025 AGM in Sligo. They are already winging their way to show our appreciation to those who have donated in 2025.



Together we can make a massive difference!