

# Tallaght hospital watch

## Jo's X-ray is a work of art



**THE CLAW:** Jo Killalee's painting based on her X-ray

ARTHRITIC patients attending Tallaght Hospital have discovered the world is at their finger tips – after one lady was selected as runner-up in the Art and Health Competition of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy.

Jo Killalee, a patient at the hospital's Rheumatology Department, was invited to attend classes in the National Centre for Arts and Health which is based in the local health facility.

The art classes are a joint initiative between the Rheumatology Department and the National Centre and provide patients with the chance to try art for the first time, find a new interest and explore the benefits of art for people with arthritis.

The year-long programme saw patients studying the works of famous artists who also suffered from arthritis – such as Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Raoul Dufy and Paul Klee.

X-rays of the patients' arthritic joints were also used as inspiration, with all pieces being hung in the Tallaght Community Arts centre.

Jo's winning painting, entitled *The Claw*, was inspired and based on an X-ray of her arthritic hand and is a clear example of the creative work that people suffering with this inflammatory disease can produce.

Dr David Kane, Consultant Rheumatologist at Tallaght Hospital, said: "The outlet to creativity has positively enhanced general well being and a sense of worth in patients who believed their damaged joints were not fit for purpose."

He added that Jo, whose work was exhibited in the World Congress in Amsterdam last week, is absolutely delighted to have achieved so much with her art and has gone on to attend further art classes since joining the first group.

One patient attending the class, said: "When I realised that I could make art with my hands, I thought 'what next?'"

For further information, call the centre on 4142076.



**INN IT FOR THE KIDS:** Generous staff and customers from the Belgard Inn put their hands in their pockets once again for the National Children's Hospital in Tallaght.

Ciara O'Grady, Director of Fundraising at the Children's

Hospital, told *The Echo*: "Everybody at the Belgard Inn is always so generous with their donations and we are very grateful to have their continued support."

She added how the Belgard Inn has made a significant

contribution to the hospital, and to the lives of sick children, in recent years.

Ciara (far right) is pictured recently collecting a cheque for €1,000 from customers and staff outside the popular Tallaght pub.

# Hospital goes online for kids

## New website for children's facility aimed at young

By Mary Dennehy  
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TALLAGHT Hospital launched a new, easy to navigate website this week which boasts the country's first dedicated children's hospital website – written in language children can understand.

After months of consultation with staff, patients and GPs, the hospital's new-look site has finally gone live and offers users easy access to visiting hours, consultants, departments and clinics, wards, routes to hospital, detailed campus maps, volunteer services and much more.

It also has a programme which allows GPs and other healthcare professionals direct access to their patients' lab results [password protected] and Healthlink – a programme which transfers information on a patient's discharge or medication, for example, directly to the GP's computer.

Laoise Ó Murchú, Communications and Public Relations Manager at the hospital, said that the site's new content management system will allow each department to regularly update the website, making information much more common and current.

She said: "In today's world, websites can become dated very quickly so when we got some money from the Meath Foundation, we decided to work on the website."

"It is designed along the lines of what people look for on a hospital website and we've made that information as easy as



**STYLE:** Data administrator Siobhan King (left) with Laoise Ó Murchú, Tallaght Hospital Communications Manager, surfing the new website

possible to locate.

"We want people's first experience with the hospital to be a positive one and with this website that's what we're striving for, a positive patient experience."

Ms Ó Murchú added how the website possesses the country's first dedicated children's hospital page – complete with an innovative Kids TV section.

"We're the first hospital in the country to have a dedicated children's site and the page is designed in a children's style and written in children's language," she said.

"We also have a Kids' TV section which

shows various videos from inside the hospital.

"One of the videos follows a child entering the children's hospital and it shows kids what to expect and who they will meet."

The website also features a feedback section which the hospital is encouraging the community to use.

A news and media section is also present and all jobs within the hospital will be posted on line and can be applied for through the site.

To view the new site, visit [www.amnch.ie](http://www.amnch.ie).



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