



Pictured at the official opening of the new unit were (LtoR): Dr Paula Calvert, Consultant Medical Oncologist, HSE; Dr Paddy McKiernan, retired Consultant Physician, WGH; Cllr. Peter Byrne, (Chairman) Wexford County Council; Liam Dwyer, (Chairman) Friends of WGH; Cllr. Ted Howlin, Mayor of Wexford; Mabel Leech (Patron) Friends of WGH; Bishop Denis Brennan (Patron) Friends of WGH; Lily Byrnes (General Manager) WGH; Ellen Lynch (PRO) Friends of WGH and Rev Maria Jansson

Oncology Day Care Unit Officially Opens at WGH

A state-of-the-art Oncology Day Care Unit officially opened in March at Wexford General Hospital (WGH). The unit, located adjacent to the main entrance of the hospital, will accommodate all cancer day services in one location at WGH.

The unit's delivery is the culmination of a successful partnership between the HSE and fundraising efforts in the local community, led by the Friends of Wexford General Hospital committee. The HSE provided €2.3m to the project, while The Friends of WGH contributed €1.2m.

Since the establishment of cancer day services at WGH in 1997, the demand for these services rose with each subsequent year. The need for a purpose built unit for oncology day services was soon identified as a priority. Discussions took place between South East Radio and the then South Eastern Health Board with a view to embarking on a major fundraising venture. From its foundation for this purpose, the Friends of WGH received tremendous support.

Hundreds of fundraising events and activities were held, with individuals, clubs, groups, organisations and local businesses all playing their part. The goodwill, enthusiasm and commitment never waned and, by June 2007, the target of €1m had been exceeded.

The existing day services on St Patrick's Ward, together with its nurse specialists, have now been transferred to the new unit, which offers a large treatment area with single bays for the chemotherapy/transfusion patients referred from the main hospital.

The HSE estimates that WGH will process over 2,000 oncology day treatments at the new unit in 2009, which

represents a 25 per cent increase on the previous year's figure.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Richard Dooley, HSE Network Manager, Hospital Group South East, said: "In expressing our gratitude to all of those involved with the Friends of Wexford General Hospital, I would also like to pay tribute to Teresa Hanrahan, whose dedication in her role as General Manager of WGH played no small part in this achievement. On behalf of the HSE, I'm delighted for all the hard working staff at WGH and look forward to working with Teresa's successor, Lily Byrnes, in delivering services for the local population."

Consultant Medical Oncologist Paula Calvert added: "In terms of patient assessments and designs of treatment plans for them, I am delighted with the improved facilities. From the patients' point of view, comfort, privacy and safety will be much, much better in the new unit - relatives will now be enabled to sit with patients who may be connected up to drips for up to four hours [during chemotherapy]."

Addressing the official opening, the Chairman of the Friends of Wexford General Hospital, General Manager of South East Radio Liam Dwyer said: "The Unit has been made possible thanks to a phenomenal fundraising drive since the Friends of Wexford General Hospital was formed. It's entirely thanks to the great generosity of the people who got behind the campaign and we thank the HSE for its significant part in this project coming to fruition."

Further information on the work of the Friends of Wexford General Hospital is available at: www.friendsofwexfordhospital.ie

New PCT Integrates Services in Kilkenny

A new approach to healthcare for the community living in Kilkenny City was launched by HSE CEO, Professor Brendan Drumm, in March.

The new Primary Care Team (PCT), located on Dean Street, sees GPs, practice nurses, public health nurses, a physiotherapist, a speech and language therapist, an occupational therapist and dietitians all working in collaboration.

The integrated approach involves the group of professionals hosting regular team meetings where individualised care plans are developed for patients, particularly those with chronic illnesses and other complex needs. The team share information and their respective skills to ensure that patients with greatest need receive services in a timely and coordinated way.

Speaking at the launch, Professor Drumm said: "We are aiming to have both our community and hospital based services working hand in glove as a single, integrated service. The HSE wants our patients' journey through the health service to be seamless and as delay-free as possible. Primary Care Teams provide a 'one-stop' approach. They can meet or arrange the vast majority of the care needs of the public. If hospital care is needed, the links and arrangements can be made through the Team."

Paddy Byrne Retires



(LtoR): Paddy, his daughter Sinead, Brian Pownall and Brendan Healy, at the presentation

After 37 years of service, Paddy Byrne, Project Services Manager, celebrated his retirement with family, friends and work colleagues in Cherry Orchard Hospital in April.

Paddy started working with the Eastern Health Board in 1972. His first placement was in the old Cherry Orchard Hospital stores. After working in St Brendan's Hospital as an Assistant Supplies Officer, he moved to the Central Mental

Hospital for a number of years before returning to St Brendan's Hospital as Senior Supplies Officer. Next, Paddy was promoted to the position of Customer Services Manager in the newly established Eastern Regional Health Authority and finally, he took the role of Project Services Manager, where he remained until this year.

Paddy was one of three members of staff who were instrumental in promoting centralised purchasing through the establishment of a group supplies operation. He also had the responsibility of administering the receipt and distribution of wheelchairs to the 10 community care areas during this time, leading to a close working relationship with a number of Occupational Therapists at the hospital.

Wishing you a healthy and very happy retirement Paddy!

Honorary MSc for Deceased Jim Kearney

The HSE hosted a special day in Dr Steevens' Hospital last February, when an Honorary MSc was posthumously awarded to the late Jim Kearney, former HSE Procurement, Contract and Account Manager.

The Honorary MSc in Supply Chain Management was awarded by the National Institute for Transport and Logistics (NITL). Jim was represented at the ceremony by his family, including his wife Anne, sons Owen and Phelim and daughters Ellen and Roseanne.

Presenting the certificate to Jim's son, Owen Kearney, Edward Sweeney (Director of Learning at NITL) said that Jim had received many accolades from his time working with the Institute, and was always willing to share his great knowledge with younger members. John Swords (HSE Assistant National Director Procurement Head of Logistics & Inventory Management) congratulated Jim and his family, adding that he always had a great appetite for learning and would be remembered for his academic achievements.

Jim is still sadly missed by all.



(LtoR): Edward Sweeney, Director of Learning with the NITL, presents the certificate to Owen Kearney, son of the late Jim Kearney

Sunflowers Support End-of-Life Care

Flora Hasson Maguire (4), RTÉ's Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh and Nabila El Barazi-Ni Chleirigh (4) from Killester, Dublin, launch Sunflower Days 2009 which took place between 12-13 June to raise funds for hospices nationwide. The campaign involved hundreds of volunteers across the country selling sunflower pins for €2 each, which will serve as a major source of income for hospices and voluntary hospice groups. Almost 30,000 people die annually in this country and over 6,000 use hospice services every year. Hospice/palliative care involves the total care of patients and their families at the stage in a serious illness where the focus has switched from treatment aimed at cure to ensuring quality of life leading up to a person's death.

