LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES 2010 DIARY

eport and accounts
of mary, john and
leeds irish health
and homes - 2000-2009

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES CLIENTS ACCOUNTS

or most of the people receiving this, a diary is about things to look forward to... birthdays, holidays, meeting friends or family, confirmations.

A year, or so, ago it wasn't like that for me. most days were empty...

The first few months going sober I found it very difficult to stick to appointments. Things can and do change. I now get up, shower, I eat breakfast and see what the day has planned ahead. I've learnt to keep my self busy—I'm constantly on the move. I fill up my days with things to do and people to see.



LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES MARY'S ACCOUNT

Christmas 2007

I can recollect a friend telling me to get in touch with LIHH.

February 2008

I was hospitalised and really poorly. It's a nice way of saying sectioned. Bad times but for good reasons. I had just came off the booze once again. The body went mad — hallucinations. They had to come and get me from home. I thought I was really going mad. It was too much for my body to cope with. Not many people know about that bit when you give up — from every day drinks to nothing. It's a shock. I remembered my friends advice after I came out and thought about giving LIHH a try just for support.

I was nervous at first but gave LIHH a call. Then two weeks later Eileen and John came round and gave the support I had been told about. If you've got anything on your mind they listen and help you out. I could get things off my chest for once — I used to bottle up everything inside — but It's not the way.

If I can tell anyone, anything, is that the first step of getting in touch isn't as hard as you imagine. They were all lovely.

LIHH understand you and are really down to earth people and you know you can ring them up — they're there. You can pick up the phone and there's always someone to listen.

April 2008

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My dad passed away in Leeds this month. My regret was that I wasn't there for him because I was drinking — you can't change it now though. I had always drank for confidence and to get rid of the pain from my past life — I was doing it again. I know now that you've got to deal with it without drink.

Planned to go to detox at St Anne's — I've been there a few times. I've relapsed before — it happens. You come out and five weeks later you're back on the drink. I had tried St Anne's four times you know.

May 2008

At my dad's funeral I got to see quite a bit of the family — they saw for the last time what I used to look like in my drunken lifestyle. My next meetings with them — they can all tell the difference. When I saw my relatives in Ireland in 2009 one of them from my mums side said, "Mary look at you — you look so well — told me I was welcome to visit anytime." If anything my dad has become my guardian angel — I know he looks down on me — I really do feel that I am healing.

September 2008

Enniscrone, County Sligo with LIHH. What a holiday — was the turning point for me. Just think — it was meant to be — my name came out of the hat — only 8 people get to go out of all the tenants on this trip each year. I did a lot of thinking — in fact I did a lot of thinking and drinking. I got to see some of my family based in Ireland. I knew I was ready to change.

November 2008

Haven't had a drink since November 12th 2008. Support from LIHH has really helped the process of me getting off the alcohol. A lot was down to me too — I wanted to change my life, I knew it was the right time — I didn't want to drink any more!

Let me tell you though — I was never a dry drunk — I was always happy — but it really had to stop. I was nailed every day — I was an alcoholic.

December 2008

I had to watch this one. The festivities and all that. I holed myself up all Xmas and I didn't see anyone — not even family. I had to be alone — do it for myself. I needed to do it on my own. It was all planned — I got all the provisions in that I needed for that time and I sat it out. I'm very proud of what I achieved then.

May 2009

Started doing voluntary work for a place called ADS (Alcohol Dependency Solution) — I have realised I can help others going through what I have experienced — I understand. Also, I now do volunteering on a Monday at LAD (Leeds Addiction Unit).

It's my birthday this month — I didn't even plan or think about a drink. People can see the change. I didn't go out for a 'drink' but for a pizza and a glass of 'coke', I met up with a friend in Chapel Allerton. This is my new way of going out. It's who you choose for friends — I just stick around positive people now. I try to keep myself busy.

August 2009

You come to realise what people used to think of you. They couldn't trust you. They couldn't rely on you. They still don't 100% — I do understand. I would be exactly the same. People who have experienced me in the past have that fear I will go back. I won't though and don't want to. My life has changed. I do babysitting for my sister's little boy. That's another really big step in my life. Wow — I've even stayed overnight

September 2009

I've started studying as well now. It's something for me. I'm pushing myself and filling in my time positively. I'm now doing a course on computers at Swarthmore. I'm not stressing or anything — I'd never have thought I would be doing something like this.

Excitingly, I was also invited to my sister's boys birthday — that's never happened before — just for the morning though as my children were to turn up later that day.

November 2009

My first anniversary of 'a year off the beer.' I was so looking forward to it — I'm so chuffed with myself. My house is my comfort now

— I like being there — I didn't before — I used to dread it. Don't get me wrong, I was very house-proud when I used to drink — but now my money goes on things for home or on me. I like my soaps on TV too — funny thing is — you see that all of them are set in a pub though — haha.

I've also learnt now to keep away from my old 'drinking' friends. I can't mix with them anymore — I can't afford to — the risk is too high. It's only a year but I'm still vulnerable. I know I'm going to get thoughts for the rest of my life — I'm a recovering alcoholic. I say to myself, "Hold on Mary, remember when you were really ill and just look how far you have got now!"

December 2009 and onwards...

What a change from last year. I am so looking forward — yep, looking forward — that's such a good way of thinking about it all. You know what — I'm going to York for Xmas this year. I've had an invite off my cousin to stay. I haven't seen her properly for 16 years.

I'm also working up to going to court around now. I'm ready to see my children and can't wait to prove that I haven't had a drink for a year. That was the main thing the judge told me if I did come to court and ask for contact. I have regular blood tests at the doctors — just to prove how well I'm doing — all have been clear. I don't have to, but want to be proud and show the courts the change. If my children do want to see me that will make this all complete. They haven't seen me for years.

I have always kept in contact and wrote to my kids — every two weeks even when I was drinking. You know what — when I get to see them — I will class that as my first 'true day' sober.

2009 is the happiest year of my life so far.





LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES JOHN'S ACCOUNT

January 2006

I've made a right arse of it all again! I've been doing well, off of the heroin and crack and doing a bit of voluntary work to keep me busy. I've even done a counselling course but now its all gone tits up again! I've started drinking, replacing the drugs with the drink and I've been asked to leave my volunteering job.

My heads battered. I'm sat at home drinking by myself and the panic attacks and depression are starting again, the fogs starting to descend over me. Crying over frig all, sometimes I don't move out of this chair all day. Can't be bothered eating, what's up with me?

I'd be better off brown bread.

May 2006

Bumped into an old mate today, haven't seen him for ages so we shared a tenner bag of gear together. I thought I'd be all right but I ended up overdosing, it was only the once. I'm not getting back onto that stuff.

August 2006

Well it's my birthday today and I've been back in the cells, I've been nicked for an assault coz I was off my head on heroin and tablets. They're the only thing that keeps the dark moods away and I can actually get out of the house when I've been using. It's really getting me down again though, having to go out and beg borrow or steal money to pay for my drugs everyday and on top of that I've got another deep vein thrombosis in my leg from injecting.

I enjoyed being off the drugs for those few months. I've been using for over ten years and I'm not getting any younger, my family have been to hell and back because of me. I need to sort my head out!

September 2006

This is getting worse, I've been kicked out of the hostel coz once again I was off my head on tablets and gear. What am I gonna do now? I'm back on the streets, my legs are in a bad way and my head is battered. It'd be easier to end it all now.

Well I've signed up to do a Peer Mentoring course with a place called CRI. I had to go there because I got nicked for shoplifting for drugs, I might as well give it a go and I've got a part time job volunteering in Shelter Charity Shop. That should keep be busy and get me used to talking to 'normal' people again. Been taking drugs for so long that's all I know what to talk about! The methadone script I'm on down at the NFA doctors is helping me to stay off the drugs and my keyworker down there is really good, I just need to stop drinking everyday now!

I've never felt this alone in my life before, I'm in temporary accommodation which is crap and because of what happened in the hostel I'm banned from the Councils Housing List. Ar kid told me about a place called Irish Homes before when he was thinking about doing some voluntary work, said they decorate all their flats in the Irish colours! I'll ask my keyworker if he knows anything about them.

November 2006

Went to do the application at Irish Homes today, they seem all right. Didn't think I'd be 'Irish enough'! I haven't been to Ireland since I was about ten, me being the black sheep and all that. My mum came with me coz I was a bit nervous and she was asking a few questions about passports as they're moving back there soon.

The Peer Mentoring course is going well, making some good friends on it. Getting off gear is lonely so at least I'm around people who know the score and I love the job at the charity shop. I'm there nearly every day. Got to keep busy, fill my time and keep away the depression.

January 2007

Been accepted for a flat with Irish Homes... get in! Went to see it and it's all done out and everything, ar kid was nearly right about them decorating their flats in the tricolour! Move in a few days, buzzing! Things seem to be going all right for me.

March 2007

Moved into another flat with Leeds Irish Health and Homes, knew too many people near the other flat. Got to try and keep away from people who are using drugs. My worker is a really good bloke, can't pronounce his surname to save my life though but he really seems to care. He's seems to go that bit further. I've got this computer because of him and a grant to pay for a course I want to do. He's helped me with my appeal for Sickness Benefit, I wouldn't have been able to go through it if it wasn't for him being there with me, I was shaking like mad I was that nervous. I want to get back to work but I've been a drug user for so long though that's all I know. I'm not exactly the most confident of people at the moment and I don't want to start using again. I'm gonna take my time this time around, I want to get it right. All these little courses I'm doing are helping with my confidence and getting me used to being around people again — little steps but I'm getting there.

My moods are a lot better, still having panic attacks but they're not as bad as they used to be. I've started seeing a girl as well and that's going well, she's a little stunner!

September 2007

Started a course at a place in town, a charity that works with the homeless and drug users and I'm really enjoying it. Turns out all those years I spent taking drugs and the times I was homeless I learnt quite a few things. It's doing my confidence the world of good.

I'm seeing my drugs worker and my key worker from Irish Homes regularly. Terry visits me every week and I really look forward to his visits. It good to have someone listen to all the sh**e I talk sometimes. I'm starting to learn who I am again, I'm an ex this and ex that... ...but where do I fit in now?

March 2008

I've just applied for a part time job at the homeless charity where I've been volunteering, fingers crossed!

Get in there! I got it! My first paid job in God knows how long. I hope I can handle it. I've been doing drugs for about 20 years now and its hard learning how to cope with stuff without turning to them again. I'll be right, keep yer chin up man!

My moods are a lot better but maybe it's only a matter of time before the switch goes and I'min darkness again? I'm gonna have to deal with that when I face it, it's me, I've got to live with it. Just got to think positive, I've got a lot to be grateful for. There are people a lot worse off than me. I've set myself a few goals and I'm getting there, thoughts become things. Think positive!

April 2008

They've got me working full time now, I'm loving it! I look forward to going there every day. Irish Homes have told me I can take over my own tenancy; things are going well with my girlfriend and I've got money in my pocket! Mum and Dad are back in Ireland, I'll go see them as soon as I've saved a bit of money.

December 2008

I went back to Ireland for the first time since I was ten to spend Christmas with my Mum and Dad. It's amazing where they live, the Ox Mountains to one side, Naphin to the other, the sea in front and the smell of peat burning in the air just how I remember it. My Mum and Dad are really happy, they're both so relieved that

I've 'sorted' myself out and I'm getting on really well with the auld fella considering we didn't talk for about 15 years!

I went over to my grandads farm where we used to stay as kids, cried my eyes out. I missed his funeral because I was too busy taking drugs, the last time I saw him was when I was 15 at my sister's funeral.

It feels weird but nice when people ask how long I'm 'home' for.

November 2009

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So, I'm doing well still (touch wood!). I've been back over to Ireland a few times. I brought my girlfriend over with me and she fell in love with the place straight away. Once I've got the qualification I'm studying for we're thinking about moving over there. My Mum had a stroke in February so it'd be good if we were nearer to them.

I've started volunteering for Irish Homes, if I could try to give anything back to people who supported me when I was going through 'bad times' it would be those guys. Well, I'll see how it goes! Also doing a bit of part time work in a residential home for people with Learning Disabilities and I'm really enjoying it and learning so much.

I'm taking my recovery one step at a time. I don't take anything for granted anymore, especially those I love. I don't regret anything I've been through, it's made me who I am... ...and I'm starting to like that person.



LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES HOW CAN YOU HELP?

PLEASE VISIT WWW. JUSTGIVING. COM/LIHH

Befriending Scheme

It's sometimes hard to imagine that there are people living close by who never see a friendly face or get out of the house from one week to the next. This isolation impacts on both their physical and mental well being. By becoming a volunteer befriender you can help them to feel better about and within themselves. Just an hour or so a week to visit them at home for a cuppa and a chat or meet in a cafe or a walk in a park is all that is needed to help someone feel less lonely.

Volunteering

Ever feel at a loose end? Or Feel the need to learn new skills to help you to get a job for the first time or to change career?

Think about volunteering, we can offer opportunities for volunteers to take part in varied activities, from befriending to accompanying clients on trips helping with the cooking at the St Chad's lunch group and in the coming year we hope to get our allotment up and running, or help at cultural events such as the St Patrick's Day Parade.

Volunteers are a valuable part of making our service what it is and we offer training to help you in your role, and support to get the most out of the opportunities and most of all fund

Student Placement

We have been very fortunate as an organisation to have benefited from hosting Social Work students on placement. The students have always commented on how much they have enjoyed the variety of work and the very welcoming atmosphere here at LIHH and the clients have appreciated and welcomed the opportunity to work with them. For us as an organisation we are keen to help students learn skills and understand what an organisation such as ours can offer. The students also bring with them enthusiasm and new ideas that we can learn from.

Donations

With funding becoming ever more difficult we are most grateful for any donations which can help to ensure our clients continue to receive the service they require and have opportunities to take part in activities, go on outings or on holiday to Ireland. Many of these are only possible through donations.

So if you are thinking of running a marathon, why not raise money for LIHH at the same time or organise some other fundraising event, or donate at www.justqiving.com/lihh

The diary starts here for good reason. This is the start of Mary's transformation. A friend tells her about LIHH and when the time is right she gets in contact	25 FRI
22 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	26 SAT
23 WED	27 SUN
24 THU	2007 Around this time one of my friends lets me know about an organisation called Leeds irish Health and Homes, and that I should give them a try as they could help me. It's down to me though to get in
	touch.

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29 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	O2 SAT
30 WED	O3 sun
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	Note to self! If you have spare time and want to help why not volunteer. Put a reminder in the diary to give us a calle

O4 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	O8 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
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12 TUE	LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	16 SAT	
13 WED	SOUTH LEEDS GROUP	17 sun	
14 тни			

18 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	22 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
19 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	23 SAT
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25 MON	ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	29 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
26 TUE	LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	30 SAT
27 WED		31 SUN
28 тни	WALKING GROUP	Note to self! If you have spare time and trant to help they not volunteer. Put a reminder in the diary to give us a call.
	CARERS GROUP 10.30–12.30PM	in the diary to give us a call 0113 262 5614

	O8 MON	12 FRI
	ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	WHY NOT? CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY
		AT THE FRIDAY CLUB
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	11 тни	i plucked up the courage to
		i plucked up the courage to call Lifff. its the best thing i ever did. They have always been there for me.
		been there for me.

FEBRUARY 2010 | MONTH 02 | WEEK 06

NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.

15 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	19 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
16 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	20 SAT
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26 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
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2008 This beek i got to meet Eileen and John from Littt. Started to make plans and reshape my life with there support.

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	10 WED SOUTHLEEDS	14 sun	WHY NOT? GO SEE THE
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15 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	19 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
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17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	21 sun
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	CARERS GROUP 10.30—12.30PM	
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20 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	24 SAT
21 WED	25 SUN
22 THU	2008 My Dad died this week. i wasn't there for him but can't change that, but i know het's looking down on me and here for me now.

APRIL—MAY 2010 MONTH 04—05 WEEK 17 26 MON REMEMBER FOCUS GROUP MEETING TODAY 11AM—12.30PM	30 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
27 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	O1 SAT
28 WED	O2 SUN
29 THU WALKING GROUP	Note to self! if you have spare time and want to help why not volunteer. Put a reminder in the diary to give us a
CARERS GROUP 10.30–12.30PM	in the diary to give us a call 0113 262 5614

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17 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	21 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
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19 WED	23 SUN
20 THU	2009 My Dirthday. Meeting up for pizza and a drink of Cooket in Chapel Allerton.

24	MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	28 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
25	TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	29 SAT
26	WED	30 sun
27	CARERS GROUP 10.30-12.30PM	2009 Started doing voluntary work. i need to keep busy. After a bit of training i know i can help people that are going through what i did.

31	SPRING BANK HOL	DAY	O4 FRI
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MAY-JUNE 2010 | MONTH 05-06 | WEEK 22

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	CARERS GROUP 10.30-12.30PM	

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13 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	17 SAT
14 WED SOUTH LEEDS GROUP	18 SUN
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AUGUST 2010 MONTH 08 WEEK 31 O2 MON REMEMBER FOCUS GROUP MEETING TODAY 11AM-12.30PM ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	O6 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
O3 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	O7 SAT
O4 WED	O8 sun
05 тни	2009 Seing doing the odd bit of babysitting. To know someone trusts you is so improtant.

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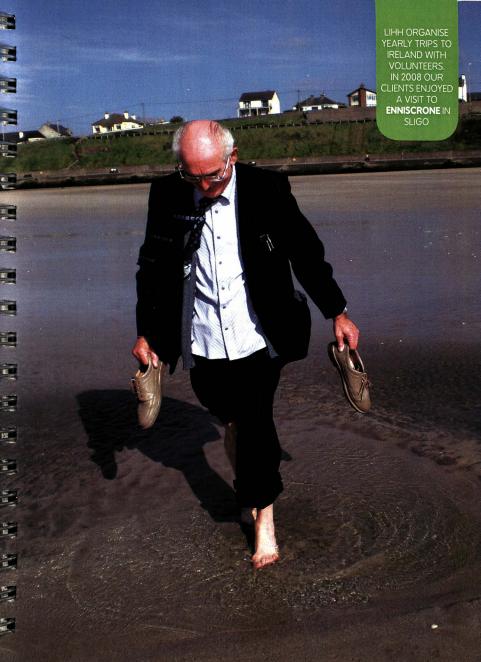
O3 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
O4 SAT
O5 sun
2008 Off to Enriscrone in Sligo. Need to do a fair bit of thinking. I really want to stop drinking. Hay even get to see some relatives.

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SEPTEMBER 2010 MONTH 09 WEEK 37		
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21 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	25 SAT
22 WED	26 SUN
23 тни	2009 Bot an invite to my sisterTs boys birthday. ThatTs never happened before. So looking forward to it.

27 MON	O1 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
	CEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S ISDAY CLUB
29 WED	O3 SUN
30 THU	NALKING GROUP if you have spare time and want to help why not
	ordunteer. Put a reminder in the diary to give us a call 0113 262 5614

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[1]

Trail.

HEAT

13

Live to

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O4 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	OS FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
O5 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	O9 SAT
O6 WED	10 sun
07 тни	

11 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	15 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	16 SAT
13 WED SOUTH LEEDS GROUP	17 SUN
14 тни	

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18 MON	ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	22 FRI	LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
19 TUE	LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	23 SAT	
20 WED		24 SUN	
21 тни			

25	MON	29 FRI	
	ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	LIHH FRIDAY CLUB	(di)
-			Files
26	LEEDS IRISH	30 SAT	
	CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB		NAME OF THE PARTY
		A Maria Caragan	
27	WED	31 SUN	· V
21	WED	31 SUN	
			\$ A.F.
			Time to the same of the same o
			N. S.
28	THU		
	WALKING GROUP		
-			
	CARERS GROUP 10.30–12.30PM		

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O1 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	O5 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
O2 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	O6 SAT
O3 WED	O7 sun
О4 тни	Note to self! if you have spare time and want to help why not volunteer. Put a reminder in the diary to give us a
	callt 0113 262 5614

NOVEMBER 2010 MONTH 11 WEEK 45	
O8 MON	12 FRI
ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
-	
09 TUE LEEDS IRISH	13 SAT
CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	
10	14
10 WED SOUTH LEEDS	14 sun
GROUP	
11 REMEMBRANCE DAY	
I I INO	On the 12th it will be a year
	On the 12th it will be a year off the beer. This is one of the most important days of my life.
	my life.

15 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	19 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
16 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	20 SAT
17 WED	21 SUN
18 тни	

NOVEMBER 2010 MONTH 11 WEEK 47		
22 MON	26 FRI	
REMEMBER ST CHAD'S FOCUS GROUP LUNCH CLUB MEETING TODAY	LIHH FRIDAY CLUB	
11AM-12.30PM		IK
23 TUE LEEDS IRISH	27 SAT	
CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB		
24 WED	28 sun	BY.
Z4 WED	ZO SUN	Pitt
25 THU		
WALKING GROUP		
CARERS GROUP 10.30–12.30PM		

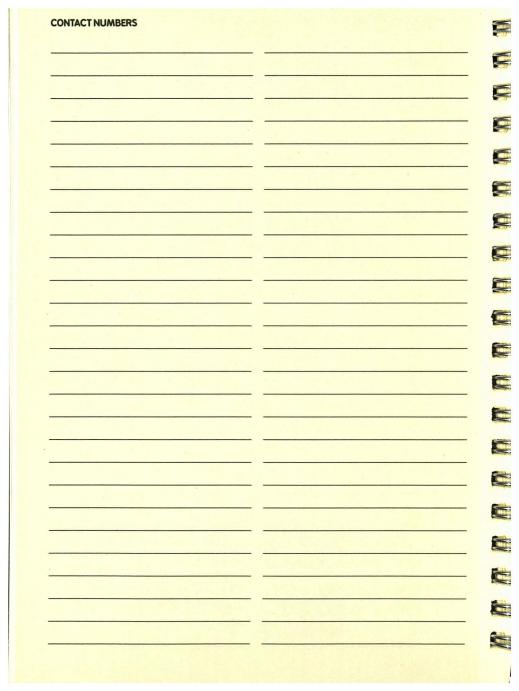
0113 262 5614

DECEMBER 2010 MONTH 12 WEEK 49		
O6 MON	10 FRI	
ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	LIHH FRIDAY CLUB	
O7 TUE	11 SAT	
CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB		
20	10	
O8 WED SOUTH LEEDS	12 SUN	H
GROUP	:	
O9 THU		
09 Inu		

	13 MON	7 FRI
	ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
3		
	14 TUE LEEDS IRISH	18 SAT
	CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	
	15	10
	15 WED	19 sun
	16 тни	
	10 ino	
2		

20 MON HAPPY XMAS IT'S THE CLIENTS CHRISTMAS PARTY TODAY ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	24 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
21 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	25 SAT
22 WED	26 SUN
23 THU	2009 What a difference a year makes. I needed to be by myself last year - this year I am off to York to celebrate Christmas with a relative.

27 MON ST CHAD'S LUNCH CLUB	31 FRI LIHH FRIDAY CLUB
28 TUE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE'S TUESDAY CLUB	O1 SAT
29 WED	O2 SUN
30 THU WALKING GROUP	Hopefully many more changes for the good lay ahead. I look forward to the day I get to meet my children once again. It's not going to happen over night but it's something to
CARERS GROUP 10.30 – 12.30 PM	its not going to happen over night but its something to aim for.



LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2008–2009

hen i was young i thought that money was the most important thing in life. now that i am old i know that it is.

car wilde

Overall, the last twelve months have seen a continued progression for Leeds Irish Health and Homes on many fronts. We are very grateful indeed to all of our funders who have shown continued support throughout a difficult period.

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

ed upheaval in financial and economic terms. However in introducing this annual report, I am pleased to say that we have a lot to celebrate this year at Leeds Irish Health & Homes, and that we have continued to provide the same level of service to our clients as we have in the past.

As a Board of Management, we have always been very mindful that the future of LIHH must be driven by our ability to respond to the changing needs of the community. To achieve this, we need to maintain the highly skilled and committed team of staff which we currently enjoy. Our continued commitment to staff development has been recognised in our achievement of the Investors in People award at the first attempt. This is a great credit to LIHH and adds a significant further credential to the organisation.

Our recent report looking at the experiences of older Irish people using health and social care services showed that LIHH is at the forefront of taking support to the most vulnerable members of our community, and that this is the type of support that is needed and valued. We hope to build on this valuable piece of research in support of our desire to broaden services in this area.

We have maintained a solid financial performance and this has ensured that we will now be able to make some major improvements to the welfare of our tenants at Davitt House which will result in an increased number of living spaces and a significant improvement and upgrade to the existing kitchen and bathroom facilities.

At our Board away-day we were able to strengthen our governance structure for delivering change and growth over the next few years. Most importantly this will involve staff, clients and the community in developing this vision.

Like many Irish organisations in Britain, we remain hugely appreciative of the ongoing support of Dion funding. The strategy of Leeds Irish Health and Homes has been to seek to utilise Dion

as a primer for our service delivery in Leeds and it has been instrumental for us in securing additional funds which have helped to build up our professional outreach service. Funds coming through NHS Leeds and Adult Social Care have now been confirmed with 3 year Service Level Agreements which will allow us to continue this important work.

Added value is something that we see as very much a part of our service and throughout this report you will see how the culture in LIHH seeks to add value to the services that we and others provide. This takes many forms and includes the excellent work taking place through our volunteering and befriending project, our client involvement programme, our many groups and also the significant level of research material that LIHH continues to originate.

As a Board of Management, we are hugely grateful to and indeed proud of our staff team who continue to show a level of commitment that sets them apart and which is so much appreciated by our clients because of the difference that they make to their lives.

Overall, the last twelve months have seen a continued progression for Leeds Irish Health and Homes on many fronts. We are very grateful indeed to all of our funders who have shown continued support throughout a difficult period. The welfare of our tenants and our desire to broaden services remain at the top of our priorities and we are looking forward with confidence to the challenges ahead. We hope that whoever reads this report will appreciate the difference that Leeds Irish Health & Homes makes through the work that we do.

MEL NALLY LIHH CHAIR

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LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Indeed for the voluntary sector as the public purse increasingly empties. The opportunity for charities to be side-lined as the statutory services 're-prioritise' their resources and look for greater efficiency savings becomes much more likely. We are seeing this already as established organisations go to the wall. But voluntary organisations have always been around in buoyant economic times and through the worst. Always existing or developing to address a need that has raised the passions of a group of people or a community. Whether that be working alone or creating effective partnerships to share resources. And passion for helping members of the Irish community and the willingness to work in partnership is what Leeds Irish Health & Homes (LIHH) still retains as its main driving forces.

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The past year has seen a re-affirming of our desire to help Irish people access the right kind of support when they need it and to develop initiatives that fight isolation, depression and the deterioration of health. We reviewed the values that the organisation wishes to work to and in consultation with our clients formalised these through the Board process. The fruition of this was highlighted when we achieved the Investors in People award at the first time of asking with feedback that the organisation clearly trains and communicates with staff and Board in a very positive way.

"I really enjoyed my visits to LIHH, which is clearly a very special organisation. As an outsider I felt very welcome, and staff obviously enjoy their work too: several people commented that they see this as the best organisation they have ever worked for. There are excellent systems and structures to support training and development... ...and the training opportunities are all geared to making sure that the client needs are met."

IIP Assessor

- During the year we held away days for the staff team, the senior Management team and the Board to all look at how we work together and what we want to achieve for the community we work for.
- Our housing support service was given an excellent report from the Supporting People team and our achievement of level B was a tribute to the hard work of the team. This was supported by our tenants who were interviewed as part of the process.

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- "Feedback was very positive and they gave examples of their achievements since they started using this service. All service users praised all Housing Support Workers and their commitment in providing ongoing support.
- I am very pleased with the service I receive; the service is excellent; a very reliable service and very helpful; it has been better than what I expected; I like the degree of independence offered; it gives me the chance to do the things I want to do for myself; the organisation is sensitive as most of the people have been through the same things; I think they are great people and have helped so many people; I have no complaints, they are very helpful to all their tenants; if I need things doing, they are very helpful and they sort out problems"
- Our volunteer project has made massive leaps in being able to provide befriending services to older Irish people. Its success has also come through the time and effort it has put into making sure the volunteers understand their role within the organisation and know how they contribute to our goal. The setting up of the St Chad's project has enabled people to get out on a Monday afternoon and enjoy social interaction as well as learn home skills.
- Our outreach services continue to flourish with more people using us for one-to-one support as well as our groups. The groups recreate a community feeling that sadly seems lost to a great many people nowadays.

Important pieces of research have taken place at LIHH this year. Our latest report highlights the 'Health & Social Care Experiences of Older Irish People in Leeds'. This was completed with joint PCT and Adult Social Care funding and is the first time that a study has looked at the older Irish community in detail. We also produced some very interesting information regarding dementia within the Irish community and are currently developing a framework to provide support to people in this area.

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And so to the future......LIHH knows that there are changes ahead. Not only because of the economic situation, but there are changing needs within our community. We have to be able to adapt to these changes so that our community gets the best from us. We were pleased to recieve a grant from the Ireland Fund of Great Britain to complete a feasibility study into extra care housing for older Irish people that will be completed by March 2010. The development of a dementia service is key to addressing some of the greatest needs within our community. We are also seeing very positive partnership opportunities with a number of significant organisations in Leeds and beyond and look forward to their progression in the months and years ahead.

LIHH would not be able to make the difference it does without the drive and dedication of its staff, volunteers and Board all putting its passion into practice. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to everyone for doing this so comprehensively and with such great skill.

However, none of this would be possible without Irish people themselves entrusting us with their care. We will ensure we never lose sight of that fact.

ANT HANLON LIHH CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT

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Our support services continue to be in demand with referrals continuing at a high level with 72 housing tenants and a waiting list of 25 applicants for our housing support service, and 118 clients receiving support from our outreach service. Many have also benefited from our volunteer project providing increased opportunities to get out and about through befriending, with sightseeing trips and bowling just some of the things on offer.

In addition we have several groups offering a wide range of activities: the Friday Club for older people, the volunteer led St Chad's group on a Monday, the fortnightly South Leeds Group, a women's group, carers group and walking group that meet monthly.

Last year we were pleased to work with the Skippko Arts project 'Under One Roof' a heritage project involving several community groups in Leeds reflecting on where they were born. It was also an intergenerational project going into local schools and working with children. They made Russian Dolls filled with items from their past, which were exhibited around the city. The clients involved learnt a lot about other cultures and enjoyed immensely being involved.

A highlight of last year was the holiday to Ireland. Eight clients, two staff and a volunteer went to Enniscrone in Sligo. We are grateful to the fundraising by the Leeds Irish Professional Network and to Liam Scott, a local Sligo business man who allowed us the use of his holiday cottages.

The holiday was a turning point for many of the clients, some were returning to Ireland after many years away, for others it was the first time they had had such a holiday.

The performance figures reflect the level of activity of our service and the varied reasons for needing our help and support. But it is not just the figures that measure our service, what is clearly

important is the outcomes for those individuals and the changes or benefits that are made to their lives. Mary's and John's stories which are told in this report are what our work is all about and it is the difference we make in helping people to make changes that is a true measure of the success of the service.

It is our ability to take clients out, involve them in different projects and go on holiday that makes our service distinctive. Providing that cultural element adds value that cannot always be measured by numbers alone.

Measuring these outcomes is not always easy and it is something we need to develop further in the coming year if we are to show the true worth of our service and show to commissioners the added value that our service can bring.

GERALDINE RYAN

LIHH DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

OUTREACH SERVICE

BREAKDOWN OF OUTREACH CLIENTS (31/03/2009)



MALE 67

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FEMALE 51

AGES OF CLIENTS (31/03/2009)



16 - 19	0	60-69	27
20-29	7	70 – 79	22
30 - 39	6	80+	21
40-49	15		
50-59	20	Total	118

BREAKDOWN OF REFERRALLS TO OUTREACH SERVICE 2008-09



MALE 62

FEMALE 46

BREAKDOWN BY AGE OF REFERRALS TO OUTREACH SERVICE 2008-09



16 - 19	2	60-69	21
20-29	7	70 – 79	10
30 – 39	14	80+	10
40-49	22		
50 - 59	22	Total	108

OUTREACH SERVICE

REASON FOR REFERRAL TO OUTREACH SERVICE 2008-09



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Alcohol	6
General Advice	5
General Support	30
Housing	22
Homeless	4
Isolation	10

Mental Health	10
Physical Health	2
Benefits Advice	6
Other	13
Total	108

SOURCE OF REFERRAL TO OUTREACH SERVICE 2008-09



Self	47
Family/Friends	21
Voluntary Org.	6
Social Services	7
Homeless Agency	2

Internal	7
Statutory Health	2
Prison	2
Other	14
Total 1	108

HOUSING SERVICE

GENDER (31/03/2009)



MALE 57

100

112

FEMALE 14

CURRENT TENANT PROFILE (31/03/2009)



16 - 19	0
20-29	5
30 – 39	5
40-49	11
50 - 59	14

60-69	21
70 - 79	13
80+	2
Total	71

PROFILE OF NEW TENANTS TO HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICE IN 2008-2009



MALE 17

FEMALE 1

AGE BREAKDOWN OF NEW TENANTS



25 - 44	5
45-65	10
65+	3

Total 18

HOUSING SERVICE

PRIMARY REASON FOR REFERRAL OF NEW TENANTS



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Alcohol	3	Isolation	1
Mental Health	2	Physical Health	0
General Support	3	Debt Problems	0
Homeless	6	Drugs	0
Housing	3	Total	18

SECONDARY REASON FOR REFERRAL OF NEW TENANTS



Alcohol	3	Isolation	0
Mental Health	3	Physical Health	0
General Support	4	Debt Problems	0
Homeless	2	Drugs	0
Housing	6	Total	18

CURRENT WAITING LIST FOR HOUSING SUPPORT (31.03.09)

AGE BREAKDOWN OF HOUSING APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST



20-29	2	60-69	2
30 – 39	7	70+	2
40-49	7		
50-59	5	Total	25

REASON FOR REFERRAL OF THOSE ON THE WAITING LIST (31.03.09)



Mental Health	7
Alcohol	9
Physical Health	4
Drugs	3
General Support	2

_	 	 _	-
Tota		2	5

VOLUNTEERING OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE ALSO BEEN BUSY

- 10 volunteers have been matched with clients/tenants to befriend and are visiting regularly
- There have been 8 day trips involving 65 clients/tenants and 9 volunteers
- 5 weekend walks with 20 clients/tenants taking part and 4 volunteers
- 3 weekend bowling trips with 13 clients/tenants and 3 volunteers

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES STAFF STRUCTURE

CHAIR MEL NAI VICE CHA ANNA FRA TREASUR BRIAN MAG	LLY IR INKS CLODAGER	Y SHEARD EL LOFTUS GH MURPHY E WHELAN	SAL TAYLOR PETER McHALE JOHN DEVINE ANNE FORBES
Tanya Stirling Volunteer Co-ordinator	CHIEF EX ANTHONY		Shabir Patel Finance & Business Manager
ohn Joe Cooper Part-time Cook	DIRECTOR OF GERALDI		Kathy Cooke Administration Officer
Shelagh Fallon lient Involvement Officer	Karen Mallon Team Leader Housing Services	John O'Dwyer Team Leader Outreach Services	
Eddie Mulligan Community evelopment Worker	Terry Koivunen Housing Support Worker	Caroline Murphy Outreach Worker	
	Christopher Capitano Housing Support Worker	Teresa O'Driscoll Outreach Worker	
	Emma McVennon Housing Support Worker	Laura Hutchman Outreach Worker	
	Sarah McBride Housing Support Worker	Phillippa Dowson Outreach Worker	
	Lindsay Duffy Housing Support Worker	Eoin Mahoney Outreach Worker	
	Paula McCullough Housing Support Worker		

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LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES AIMS AND DIRECTIVES

- 1 We will provide accommodation and associated support services to single Irish people who are homeless, insecurely housed, experience or are vulnerable to mental or physical ill health.
- 2 We will support and assist our tenants to develop their skills for independent living.
- 3 We will raise awareness within the public and voluntary sector to the specific needs of Irish people in terms of their housing and health needs.
- 4 We will bring to the attention of the wider public, the needs of vulnerable Irish people

- We aim to establish a network of Irish people who are interested in the provision of culturally sensitive support and the mental issues surrounding Irish homelessness.
- 6 We have a commitment to lobbying for an Irish category in all ethnic monitoring. We will act as an information exchange, providing a network for the various agencies concerned with Irish mental health issues.
- 7 To work in counteracting direct and indirect discrimination in the mental health service.

INCOME EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENEDED 31 MARCH 2009

	2009 £	Restated 2008 £
Turnover	1,142,092	998,299
Less operating costs	(1,039,250)	(944,654)
Operating surplus	102,842	53,645
Interest receivable and similar income	25,944	28,244
Surplus on ordinary activities for the year	128,786	81,889
Transfer (to)/from restricted reserves Transfer to designated reserves	2,200 (96,000)	1,133 (21,449)
Surplus for year to general reserve	34,986	61,773
General reserve brought forward	180,671	118,898
General reserve carried forward	215,657	180,671

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Continuing operations

The turnover and surplus for the current and previous years relate wholly to continuing activities.

Total recognised gains and losses

All recognised gains and losses are included in the Income and Expenditure account

LIHH would like to record thanks to Mazars LLP who have audited the full accounts for 2008/09. The Auditors opinion was unqualified and the Board approved our accounts on 19th October 2009.

A full set of accounts is available from LIHH.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2009

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	2009 £	2008 £
Fixed assets Tangible assets	33,943	42,900
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	30,336 747,993 778,329	40,024 600,162 640,186
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(208,076)	(196,977)
Net current assets	570,253	443,209
Total assets less current liabilities	604,196	486,109
Captital reserves Share capital	11	11
Reserves Restricted reserves Designated reserves General reserve	14,559 373,969 215,657 604,185	16,759 288,668 180,671 486,098 486,109

LEEDS IRISH | care culture | HEALTH & HOMES | community

Leeds Irish Health & Homes Unit 5, Gemini Park, Sheepscar Way Leeds LS7 3JB

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