



Dublin 15 local Ekow Agyeman Prempeh is taking part in the Crosscare's Opening Power to Diversity migrant project, during which he's working on an internship with Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Moynihan

Dáil days diary

On resuming my busy schedule after Christmas recess, I was instantly greeted with a passionate front page headline of my boss's call on the Health Minister to expedite action on the recently renovated Epilepsy Monitoring Units in Cork University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital Dublin which are presently closed.

Given the urgency of the matter, and the sheer number of people still awaiting monitoring, Deputy Moynihan, first and foremost, asked me to delve deep into the question of epilepsy; which I was studiously working on at the time of putting this piece together.

But a cue worth taking note of is that the month of February and a little beyond will be dominated by Ireland's promisory note deal with the Troika and the emergency passage of a bill in the Dáil to allow for the liquidation of the toxic former Anglo Irish Bank - all in an attempt to keep the Republic of Ireland's financial health in good shape.

As one would expect, I was in the Dáil Éireann gallery when those at the other side of the political divide were virtually slugging it out with the

Government ministers on the issue, and it was quite a display of political theatre at its best. And while I carefully took notes on the day's proceedings, I was equally wondering how some deputies, in the heat of the moment, or better put, on the spot, could deliver their opinion on the matter so eloquently

Such is the power of a law maker's mental agility and it is just awesome and mesmerising to see them in that class act.

As stated above, my expectations and itinerary in my remaining couple of months or so are certainly going to be loaded, and sitting in the office is off the radar for the time being.

There are a good number of programme line-ups that I have to be present at, giving me the opportunity to be fully immersed in the Irish mode of politics.

At the end of February and first week of March for instance, I was due to be leaving for Millstreet and Macroom respectively, both in Cork city to attend Fianna Fáil Party Meetings; and on March 9, I attended the National Conference on the Common Agricultural Policy in Dublin.

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SUM-THING ELSE: DAA chief executive Kevin Toland and Barretstown chief executive Dee Ahearn pictured at the cheque presentation.

Airport staff fundraising soars to new heights

DUBLIN Airport Authority (DAA) staff donated a record €250,000 to Barretstown, its Charity of the Year for 2012.

It's the highest amount raised in a year by the DAA since the dedicated charity programme began six years ago.

This incredible donation brings the total money raised by the DAA and its employees to €1 million for Irish charities in the last six years.

DAA chief executive Kevin Toland said the €1 million raised was a "massive achievement".

"To me it's an example of what the DAA can do when it comes together in one purpose, with everyone working together and pushing in the same direction," he stated.

Mr Toland said he looked forward to playing his own part in the 2013 fundraising effort.

Barretstown chief executive, Dee Ahearn, said she was "shell-shocked" at the sum raised. "It's absolutely unbelievable," she stated.

Ms Ahearn thanked every-

body at the DAA on behalf of the staff at Barretstown, the children who use the facilities and their families.

"It's really appreciated," she added.

Over the course of 2012 a record number of events took place with employees, families and friends getting involved to support Barretstown.

Events included the annual 100/50k cycle, 40 DAA ladies participated in the Flora Women's Mini Marathon, a 5k road race took place at Dublin Airport, a parachute jump, white collar boxing, and book and cake sales.

The amount of money raised is greatly helped by the coin donations made by visitors to Dublin Airport using the many charity coin boxes throughout the airport.

The DAA is now gearing up for another successful year of fundraising for the 2013 Charities of the Year as selected by DAA employees - Bee for Batters, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Down Syndrome Ireland.

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SUN. 31st MARCH FIRST RACE: 2PM APPROX	MON. 1st APRIL FIRST RACE: 2.40PM APPROX	TUE. 2nd APRIL FIRST RACE: 4PM APPROX
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FAMILY FUN DAY
Easter Sunday at Fairyhouse.

SHOPPING VILLAGE ONSITE

EASTER BONNET COMPETITION

CHILDREN UNDER 18 FREE EACH DAY

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FOLLOW US FREE PARKING

noticeboard

QUIZ:

A charity pub quiz in aid of the National Council for the Blind of Ireland and the Irish Guide Dogs takes place at 8.30pm on Holy Thursday (March 28) at Cumiskey's bar, Upper Dominick Street, Broadstone, Dublin 7. Fantastic prizes to be won.

ART:

The Ross Art annual exhibition and sale of paintings takes place in Pobalscoil Rosmini on Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, on Saturday April 6 from 3-9pm and Sunday April 7 from 11am-5pm. Top ballerina, Monica Loughman, will open the exhibition.

SUPPORT GROUP:

A support group for people in recovery from prescription meds' abuse meets in the Beaumont area on Monday evenings to share and help each other through their experiences. For further information, call 086-0515831 or visit People in Recovery from Prescription Meds' Abuse on Facebook.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT:

Glasnevin Village Active Retirement Association is seeking new members over 55 from Glasnevin and surrounding areas. Activities include ballroom dancing, table tennis, bowls, bridge, art, movement to music and crafts. Outings, holidays and other social events are organised. For more information phone 089-4506150 evenings 5-7pm or call into the Parish Centre, Our Lady of Dolours Church, Glasnevin, Monday mornings 10.30-11.30am.

BOOKS:

Ballymun Book Exchange runs on the first Thursday of every month in Ballymun Civic Centre between 9.30am and 1.30pm. The idea is to bring a book and exchange it for another, free of charge. The aim is to help and encourage more people to read. For more information, or to make book donations, contact the Education Section of Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership on 01-8423612 or email inf

