

Youth & Sport

Arts & Culture

Health & Welfare

Irish Language

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the summer issue of The Spark which features a selection of Lottery funded organisations.

Included is **Raidió Rí-Rá**, an Irish-language youth radio station listened to all over the world. Also featured is **Buí Bolg**, the “Kings of Scale” who create spectacular installations to entertain and engage the public at national and international events.

Read about the life-saving work of **Pieta House** who help people come through darkness and see the hope and light at the end of the tunnel. And Ireland’s only stand-alone care centre **Dromcollogher & District Respite Care Centre**, which is renowned for its high standard of care, is featured.

And finally, read about Cork city hurling and football club **Nemo Rangers** who recently received a Lottery grant to develop a hurling wall.

You can find further information about National Lottery funded organisations on our website www.lottery.ie.

Wishing you all a very happy summer.

Nuala Kane
Public Relations Officer

Kings of Scale

Buí Bolg is an outdoor arts production company that uses many different creative art forms to engage the public. They celebrate their 20th year in operation this year. The name Buí Bolg means yellow bellies, the nickname for people from Wexford. Although based in Wexford, Buí Bolg performs at parades, shows and festivals nationally and internationally. They have been called ‘Kings of Scale’ because they take on things that others wouldn’t.

“We create spectacular installations using large-scale sculptural work, pageantry and animatronics and use an array of different techniques including inflatables and costumes, polysculpting and soft foam work,” said Colm Lowney, Artistic Director of Buí Bolg.

Performance is a huge part of Buí Bolg’s work as it is necessary to bring the installations to life. It is a fantastic opportunity for young

people to get involved, learn street theatre and circus skills, such as stilt-walking, and to perform at parades.

“Buí Bolg provides an environment for young people to find something they love to do and become passionate about,” said Colm.

The National Lottery provides funding to Buí Bolg through an Arts Council grant.



Buí Bolg performing in this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Darkness Into Light



Children taking part in Pieta House’s “Darkness into Light” event

Every single week ten people die by suicide in Ireland, and eight of them are men. Pieta House was established in 2006 to save lives by offering a therapeutic approach to people in suicidal distress.

Pieta House provides a free specialised treatment programme that focuses on moving people in crisis away from the idea of suicide as quickly as possible. The individual is invited into an environment that is safe, nurturing and non-judgmental. They are offered a space to explore those difficult feelings. Pieta House aims to see

why they have reasons for dying and to change that into reasons for living.

The National Lottery supports Pieta House with funding that is allocated by the Department of Health.

“Pieta House is grateful to have support from the National Lottery. The grant contributes towards providing our free counselling services which have helped save thousands of lives”, said Joan Freeman, CEO and Founder of Pieta House. Voluntary donations form a significant portion of Pieta House’s funding. The annual “Darkness into Light” 5K fundraising event takes place at various locations across the country to support the work that Pieta House does - working with people in their time of darkness and symbolising hope that things can be different. With Pieta House, people can come through that period of darkness they are experiencing and see the hope and light at the end of the tunnel.

For more information on Pieta House see www.pieta.ie

Fun Twist on the Irish Language

Raidió Rí-Rá is a National Lottery funded Irish-language youth radio station and is the only chartstation of its kind for young people. The initiative was created by Conradh na Gaeilge to provide a service for young Irish speakers that would reflect their taste in music.

The station is run like a commercial chart radio station with more music and less talk, but all the talk is as Gaeilge. There are 20 volunteers working at the station who are all passionate Irish speakers.

Raidió Rí-Rá is the first and only Irish-language youth station currently broadcasting live on the Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) platform, thanks to the funding the station receives from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht through Ciste na Gaeilge.

Raidió Rí-Rá presenters also broadcast on national FM every Tuesday – Friday night during summer 2014, as part of a new joint initiative with RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta on 92.6-94.4 and 102.7 FM.

Raidió Rí-Rá also broadcasts all year round on the internet, and is accessible to listeners anywhere in the world. More and more people with an interest in Irish language tune in to the station via www.rrr.ie. Raidió Rí-Rá is a positive, fun and interactive way to learn Irish too, and is used in school classrooms across the country.

One of Raidió Rí-Rá's most popular initiatives is their annual CD of Irish-language translations of popular songs. High-profile

Irish bands such as The Coronas, The Riptide Movement and Keywest have all been involved in recent years. Raidió Rí-Rá provides Irish translations of bands' biggest hits and they perform them as Gaeilge for the CD.

“Raidió Rí-Rá puts a modern and fun twist on the Irish language,” says Daragh Ó Tuama, Vice-Chairman of Raidió Rí-Rá. “The number of young Irish speakers has vastly increased in recent years and with Raidió Rí-Rá, the language is normalised for them as they listen to popular chart music presented totally through Irish on all the shows.”

You can listen to Raidió Rí-Rá on www.rrr.ie, on DAB in Dublin and Waterford, or via free-to-download smartphone apps.



Raidió Rí-Rá volunteers

A Home Away From Home

Dromcollogher & District Respite Care Centre Ltd is the only stand-alone respite care centre in the country.

Located on the Cork-Limerick border, 35 miles south of Limerick city, the centre provides wholesome and professional care to older people male and female mainly 65 and over in a welcoming and safe environment.

Residents receive 24 hour medical professional care and spiritual support, and are welcomed to make

new friends and enjoy the different activities the Centre provides, such as music, dancing and storytelling. Friends and family are encouraged to become involved. The centre is supported by volunteers from all walks of life.

The Centre was established in 2002 thanks to a huge voluntary local community effort in conjunction with funding from various statutory bodies, including National Lottery funding, and many generous donors.

“Ongoing improvement of our services and facilities is a priority and we would like to thank the National Lottery which has been extremely good to us over the past few years. It’s contribution has helped us to maintain the high standard of care that we want to give and continue to provide to our residents.” Seamus Stack, Director of Dromcollogher & District Respite Centre.

Hurling Wall for Nemo Rangers



Nemo Rangers' hurlers in training

Nemo Rangers is a hurling and football club in Cork City. The Club opened its

first clubhouse in 1973. After successful fundraising efforts which began in the early eighties, a new complex was opened in 2005 to facilitate the rapidly growing membership.

Nemo Rangers now sits on over 20 acres of land. It has four full size pitches, an astro turf area, an indoor astro hall, 12 dressing rooms, and a full gym with sauna and steam room.

One of the newest additions to the Club is a hurling wall which was a result of Lottery funding.

“Without National Lottery funding we wouldn’t have been able to develop the hurling wall. It’s a big advantage to the Club as it enables players to train effectively when bad weather stops them getting out on the pitch.”, said Des McCarthy, Chairman of Nemo Rangers.