

Youth & Sport

Arts & Culture

Health & Welfare

Irish Language

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Autumn issue of The Spark, which features a snapshot of the many National Lottery funded projects around the country.

Holly's Horse Haven and **Holly's Social Haven** in Co. Louth is a sanctuary for rescued horses and ponies, and a social haven for disadvantaged and disability groups. A Lottery grant this year provided a summer camp for disabled children to spend time with rescued animals, helping their emotional, mental and physical growth.

The highlight in the Ladies Gaelic Football calendar occurs this month with the Final at Croke Park. The National Lottery supports the **Ladies Gaelic Football Association**, one of the fastest growing female sports in Europe.

glór, a Lottery funded arts and entertainment venue in Ennis, Co. Clare, is an integral part of what this beautiful part of the country has to offer. Contributing to the appeal for visitors to the region, 600,000 people have been through their doors in the last few years.

Also featured is **Elphin Day Care Centre** in Co. Roscommon, which received a Lottery grant for a specially-adapted minibus for the elderly, and **Tipperary Regional Youth Service**, which provides high quality youth work for young people in the County.

We hope you enjoy this issue and wish you a great Autumn season.

Nuala Kane
Public Relations Officer

Women On The Ball



Brieghe Corkey & Sinead Goldrick at the 2014 TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Football Championship launch, Croke Park, Dublin

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) is the single biggest female sporting organisation in the Country with over 152,000 registered members. There are 1,200 clubs throughout every County in Ireland and the reach is growing as clubs are springing up around the globe in America, Australia, Asia and throughout Europe. A remarkable success story considering that the organisation is only 40 years old this year.

The LGFA develop new ways of growing the sport and ensuring that every woman in the Country has the opportunity to play. National Lottery funding has been invaluable in helping the LGFA achieve these aims.

'We are a growing and ambitious organisation, and every year we host the biggest female sporting event in the Country, the TG4 All Ireland Finals at Croke Park. However, that is the highest level of the sport, and it is at the important grassroots level that National Lottery funding is most keenly felt. This funding allows us to run initiatives like our U17 Development programme that help us bridge the gap for teenage girls as they develop into adults and gives them a sporting outlet at this stage of their lives.' said LGFA President, Pat Quill.

This month, the LGFA's new Under 17 Development Squad blitz will feature on Winning Streak. Retaining participation in sport amongst the 15-20 year age group is a challenge as exams and college take precedence. This new programme offers ladies the opportunity to play football throughout the Summer and the chance to wear their County jersey in competitive action, a rare and special honour that makes the programme a stunning success.

Clare for Culture

To paraphrase Christy Moore, 'if it's CULTURE you want, you should go to Clare'.

Based in Ennis, County Clare, glór is an arts and entertainment venue, bringing the best in local, national and international entertainment to its theatres and gallery. Since it was established in October 2001, glór has worked hard to become the voice of Clare – a platform for wonderful creative local endeavours from the County, and many visiting companies, musicians, artists and festivals.

glór also provides a spring-board for cultural exports of the future, as a place for over 50 youth organisations, drama groups and schools to develop their talents and find their first audience.

glór would not be here without investment from various local and national organisations, including the National Lottery. With its 13th anniversary this year, it's an exciting time to visit and experience a vibrant programme for 2014! See www.glor.ie for more information.



Culture Night at glór

Holly's Horse Haven

Holly's Horse Haven was established in 2008 as a cross border equine rescue organisation dedicated to preventing unnecessary slaughter, abuse, and neglect of horses. The charity makes a meaningful difference to the lives of neglected and at-risk horses & ponies through direct intervention, education, community outreach, and hands-on horse rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing.

The charity also supports health care organisations in improving the lives of individuals with special needs through Holly's Social Haven. Social and therapy programmes teach individuals how to care and be responsible for others through spending time with the rescued horses and ponies. The combination of working with the animal and caring for them enables the individual to grow emotionally, mentally, physically, and even spiritually. Equine therapy has been found to be extremely effective for treating mental health problems, disability and addictions, and in encouraging youth assertiveness.

"We could not exist nor function without the support of amazing donors and volunteers, such as the National Lottery. The Lottery grant goes directly into the maintenance, rehabilitation, and treatment of equines in care." said Elaine Duffy, founder of Holly's Horse Haven.

Horses donated to Holly's Horse Haven are placed in an adoption/fostering programme. For further information see hollyshorsehaven.com



Holly's Horse Haven helps individuals grow and inspire others

Support for Youth in Tipperary



Tipperary Regional Youth Service works with young people aged 8-25 years old

Young people all over Ireland face challenges and pressures on a daily basis, and need somewhere to go and someone to turn to for advice, support and sometimes just a chat. Tipperary Regional Youth Service (TRYs) works with young

people aged between 8 and 25 years old. Youth centres in Cashel, Tipperary Town, Thurles and Templemore house projects that work with young people to support their social and personal development, and rural youth clubs provide volunteers with the skills to deliver youth work in small rural communities.

"The National Lottery allows us to support young people to participate in making their own choices and creating their own opportunities through youth participation structures such as our youth groups and committees" said Cora Horgan CEO of TRYs.

TRYs' youth cafes are where youth workers link with young people to provide a space that is just about them and what they want to do. Their programmes target the variety of needs of young people, from developing their resilience, to tackling issues such as substance misuse and life skills development. TRYs deliver creative programmes and work with partners to provide supports around youth employment and empowerment.

The Wheels on the Bus

Elphin Day Care Centre in Co. Roscommon celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. At an event earlier this Summer to mark the occasion, a specially-adapted minibus for the Centre, funded by the National Lottery, was launched.

Established in 1994, Elphin Day Care Centre caters for elderly in the town and surrounding district, providing meals and an environment in which they can socialise.

Acting manager of the Elphin Day Care Centre, Catherine McGrath, said, **"We wish to thank the National Lottery for the €50,000 grant to fund the minibus. It is a vital service for clients, as many live on their own, and would not be able to get to the Centre without it. Thanks to the minibus, up to 40 people attend the Centre each day, receive a cooked lunch and take part in the various social activities and services that the Centre provides."**



Launch of minibus at Elphin Day Care Centre