

Dear Readers,

Spring is here and so is the first issue of The Spark for 2015, featuring some wonderful National Lottery funded projects currently taking place across the country.

At the end of last year **The Marie Keating Foundation** was granted National Lottery funding for a **Schools Cancer Awareness Programme** to promote awareness among post-primary students about cancer. And this year National Lottery funded organisation **Children's Books Ireland** will bring Book Clinics to venues throughout the country. Read about both of these fantastic projects on page one.

Overleaf we take a look at the work of **Age & Opportunity**, a national organisation that inspires everyone to reach their full potential as they age; **Gnó Mhaigh Eo**, which aims to establish Mayo as a county with an authentic and distinctive Irish identity through partnership and co-operation with the business sector; and **Limerick Youth Service**, who provide educational, social, training and personal development programmes to over 3,000 young people each year.

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Spark. We'll return in the summer and until then, wishing you a very happy spring season.

Nuala Kane
Public Relations Officer



Schools Cancer Awareness Programme

The Marie Keating Foundation was delighted to receive a grant from the National Lottery in December 2014. The grant supports the roll out of the Foundation's Schools Cancer Awareness Programme which promotes awareness among post-primary students about cancer and helps them understand the importance of early detection. By making cancer 'less frightening by enlightening,' the programme engages students with age-appropriate, interactive and informative material. The eight-module programme is available free of charge for teachers by contacting the Marie Keating Foundation.

Liz Yeates, Director of Public Affairs, Marie Keating Foundation, said: **"We are so grateful to receive a grant from the National Lottery. Whilst the prevalence of cancer is on the increase, once detected early, the outcomes are much more positive thanks to new treatments. Being able to provide the programme free with the help of the National Lottery means that we can give young people the information they need to understand cancer. Many cancers are preventable so the**

lesson plans help students reduce their risk of developing cancer by advising them on diet and fitness as well as improving their awareness of symptoms."

See www.mariekeating.ie for information.



The Marie Keating Cancer Awareness Programme for Schools was launched by Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, TD, with Andrew Cunningham and Haelegh Mc Carthy, students from St Kevin's Community College, Dublin 22. The project is supported by a grant from the National Lottery.

Book Clinics For Children

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery via the Arts Council, Children's Books Ireland works to make books a part of every child's life.

In 2015 Children's Books Ireland will bring the Book Clinic to venues throughout the country. All families are invited to come along to meet the doctor, clad in a white coat, for a reading consultation- no appointment needed, and no nasty jabs or tablets!

After a chat about books the doctor will make a diagnosis and write a prescription which can be filled at the young reader's local library or bookshop. Before seeing the Book Doctor the waiting room is brought alive with art activities with the Doodle Doctor! The Book Doctor has lots of ideas and there's a book out there for every child.

For more information and to find out when the Book Clinic is coming to your town, see www.childrensbooksireland.ie



Nahla Burke meeting Dr. Kim at Children's Books Ireland Book Clinic

Gnó Mhaigh Eo

Is eagraíocht é Gnó Mhaigh Eo a thugann tacaíocht don lucht gnó i Maigh Eo agus a spreagann iad chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid mar acmhainn eacnamaíochta.

Is tionscnamh brandála é **Déanta i Maigh Eo** atá forbartha ag Gnó Mhaigh Eo chun tacú le fiontair i gContae Mhaigh Eo a bhaineann úsáid as an nGaeilge ar na táirgí nó ina gcuid brandála.



Gnó Mhaigh Eo promotes the Irish language in County Mayo

Gnó Mhaigh Eo is an organisation supporting and encouraging businesses in Mayo to utilize the Irish language as a valuable and profitable economic resource.

Déanta i Maigh Eo is a branding initiative developed by Gnó Mhaigh Eo to support and develop the marketing and competitive power of SMEs in Co. Mayo who use the Irish language in their branding.

“Gnó Mhaigh Eo acknowledges gratefully the support from the National Lottery through Ciste na Gaeilge, which allows us to work on our aim to establish Mayo as a county with an authentic and distinctive Irish identity.” – Freda Nic Giolla Chatháin, Communications Officer, Gnó Mhaigh Eo

Inspiring Creative Ageing



CoisCeim dance group performing at the Meeting House Square in Dublin as part of Bealtaine Festival

The Bealtaine festival celebrates creativity as we age. Now approaching its twentieth birthday, it has grown to become Ireland's largest collaborative arts festival, reaching 120,000 people all over the country. Every May is now filled with performances, classes, exhibitions, workshops, screenings, dances, sessions and lots more, all under the Bealtaine banner.

Age & Opportunity, who organise the Bealtaine festival with over 600 partners, gratefully acknowledge the consistent support the festival has received from its Arts Council grant which is supported by the National

Lottery. It is this support that has made Bealtaine a global first; a national arts festival that inspires creative ageing.

“The National Lottery can be very proud of the Bealtaine festival. It has made Ireland a world leader in creative ageing, an area that is becoming central as the world's older populations increase. It has also made a big difference in individual older people's lives around the country, uncovering hidden talents and rebooting a lot of imaginations. It has also supported and promoted Ireland's older established performers, players, artists and writers as well as providing exciting and challenging intergenerational dialogues,” says Ciaran McKinney, Head of Arts & Culture in Age & Opportunity.

Shaping the Future for Limerick's Youth

National Lottery funding supports the growth of dedicated Youth Spaces in Limerick, including those provided by Limerick Youth Service, a leading provider of youth work & second chance education which engages with over 3,000 young people annually.

Limerick Youth Service provides youth work programmes including Comhairle na nÓg, Youth & Family Support, Signposting for Youth (a counselling initiative), Garda Youth Diversion, Youth Cafés, Youth Clubs & a Youth Information Service.

The service runs second chance education programmes for early school leavers including a Local Training Initiative, Leaving Cert Applied, a Pathway to Learning programme and an award winning Bakery Project. Limerick Youth Service facilitates innovative programmes including Junior Leadership Training & a Primary to Secondary Transition Programme with young people having access to youth exchange programmes in Europe.

Located in the City & County, these hubs are home to the delivery of youth work, volunteer training and are safe places where young people can participate in programmes and enjoy being young.

A member of Youth Work Ireland, Limerick Youth Service remains committed to supporting and encouraging young people to be active participants in shaping their futures.

