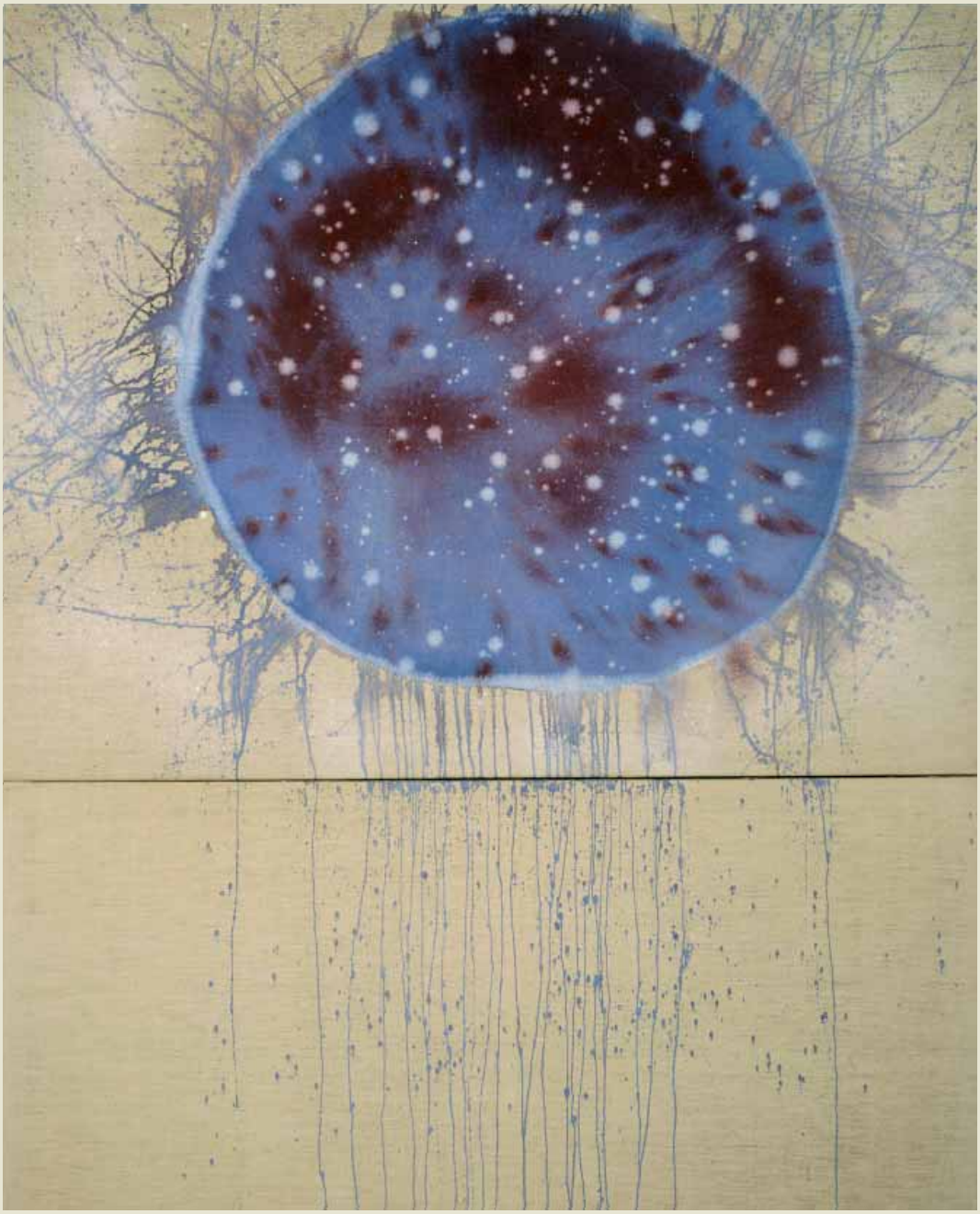
bealtainefestival

celebrating creativity in older age



1 to 31 May 2008

age & opportunity
Challenging attitudes and promoting participation

the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon

Bealtaine Festival

1 – 31 May 2008

Bealtaine is the May-time arts festival celebrating creativity in older age.

The Bealtaine Festival is coordinated by Age & Opportunity.

Age & Opportunity is the Irish national organisation working to promote greater participation by older people in society.

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Mamo McDonald
(photo: Tommy Clancy)

Now strike your note

'You've listened long enough. Now strike your note.' These are the words of Seamus Heaney that give us our theme for Bealtaine 2008. There is something particularly inspirational in them for people like me of a certain age. Many of us grew up at a time when to conform was everything, when what was encouraged was the suppression of individuality rather than its expression. Through Bealtaine, and the many ongoing arts programmes which have developed from it, I see older people participating in the arts in community groups and care centres, in local libraries and in regional and national arts institutions, in other words, right at the heart of communities – where we should be. Again this year, we are indebted to artists who support Bealtaine, including our panel of Ambassadors who through their work demonstrate that creative expression, far from being the preserve of the young, can gather depth and vigour with ageing. An inclusive festival, Bealtaine wears many faces. May we each find our own corner of Bealtaine and, in the words of Seamus Heaney, 'take off from here.'

Mamo McDonald
Honorary President
Age & Opportunity

Front cover:
'Purple Device' by Patrick Scott
(photo: John Kellet)
'From Hand to Hand' concert, Ballina
(photo: Stephen Doyle)
West Cork Arts Centre's painting project on Cape Clear Island
(photo: Phil Pound)
Liz Lerman Dance Exchange Workshop
(photo: Photocall Ireland)
Bealtaine Opening Ceremony 2007 with Buí Bolg
(photo: Dylan Vaughan Photography)

What is Bealtaine?

Celebrating creativity in older age

Bealtaine is a national arts festival celebrating creativity in older age. Bealtaine, the Irish word for May, is also the name of an ancient Celtic festival celebrating springtime. Our Bealtaine festival celebrates older age as a time for creativity and growth. It offers opportunities to participate in the arts at every level, and to celebrate the work of older artists.

This year, we are expecting over 1,500 events. The bulletin features some projects that Age & Opportunity has initiated such as Magic Me (p. 8), Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (p. 11), Silver Stars (p. 13) and the Ambassador Mentoring project (p. 21). We also cover some of what's happening in our cultural institutions and libraries (p. 14) and a taste of what's going on across the country (p. 7).

As always, our listings (p. 23 to 40), on a county-by-county basis, cover most events. As we now have more events than we can fit in the Bulletin, please call your local organisers for full details, including times and venues.

We believe that every collaborative project is helping communities to 'glue' together. Every exhibition and performance acts as a social 'grease', helping new friendships to form. This 'grease and glue' are what make Bealtaine special.

A huge thanks to everyone who makes Bealtaine possible, especially the organisers of Bealtaine events who are making something to be proud of for the whole community.

Now let us all go out and enjoy it!

Dominic Campbell
Artistic Director

The Bealtaine Festival has grown every year since its inception in 1996. It covers all art forms including theatre, literature, dance, film, storytelling, music, painting and sculpture, debate and critical events. Last year, the Bealtaine national programme included some 1,300 events in 26 counties created by over 330 organisers.

We can choose and shape change rather than let change choose and shape us. What each one of us can undoubtedly do, and do now, is strike our note, as this year's theme has it. For Bealtaine, we can strike that note through an arts project, either by ourselves or shared with others, either by participation or as part of the audience. Then we will have courted our destiny and we will be able to make the music we choose to make.

From Minister Séamus Brennan

I am pleased to be associated with this year's Bealtaine Festival.

The festival, now in its thirteenth year, is a wonderful celebration of creativity in older age. It brings home to us the simple message that arts, culture and creativity are without age limits and must be open to all to enjoy, appreciate and celebrate.

I know that 'arts for all' is a well-worn phrase but it is one that I am committed to giving fresh impetus to by creating an environment that allows arts and culture to flourish amongst all of our people, regardless of age, of social background and of nationality.

The theme for this year's festival 'Now strike your note', (from the Seamus Heaney poem 'Station Island'), seems particularly apt. I would encourage everybody in their later years to continue to contribute and engage with the arts, or even to discover for the first time how arts and culture can stimulate our thinking and challenge our perceptions.

The vibrant 21st century Ireland we now enjoy has been built on the dedication, sacrifice and vision of generations who are now growing older. But that is the very reason why older voices and a lifetime's experience has still so much to offer in enriching the arts for all of us to enjoy.

I would like to congratulate all those involved in Bealtaine, from the coordinators, Age & Opportunity, to the organisers, performers, artists and audience, and wish you continued success in 2008.

Séamus Brennan, T.D.
Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

A chairde,
The message that this year's Bealtaine festival conveys is an important one - that, though there are as many different ways to age as there are people, creativity can be an intrinsic and very satisfying part of life for all of us, no matter what our age. All good wishes for Bealtaine 2008. Ar aghaidh leis an gceiliúradh.

Máire Hoctor, T.D.
Minister of State, Dept of Health and Children with responsibility for Older People

Bealtaine is a festival that is going from strength to strength and the Arts Council is very pleased to be involved again this year. We wish all Bealtaine organisers a very successful Bealtaine 2008.

Olive Braiden
Chair of the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Opening Ceremony for Bealtaine 2007 with Buí Bolg
(photo: Dylan Vaughan Photography)

Altogether Better

Children from 5th and 6th class at Cornanool National School during a workshop at The Linenhall Arts Centre.

Books made at 'Burning Bright' sessions with artist Sarah Fuller in St Brendan's CNU, Loughrea, Co Galway during 2007. (photo: Sarah Fuller)

More...

Linenhall Arts Centre
T: 094 902 3733

"Ní neart go cur le céile", and Bealtaine has seen many types of partnerships and collaborative projects over the years. Below is just a tiny sample showing what happens when you team up:

Linenhall Tours, Castlebar

For Bealtaine, the Linenhall has turned its Visual Arts Programme for schools on its head and invited the 5th and 6th classes at Cornanool School to design and deliver a gallery tour and workshop for older members of the community. Capable and informed, the children are well able to present visual art, and will lead the tour introducing Fidelma Sheridan's art. Following a discussion, all involved will create artworks based on Fidelma's work.

Burning Bright, Galway

Burning Bright is a partnership project between Galway Arts Centre, the Arts Office and Age Action West. For ten weeks, artists have been running workshops in six nursing homes throughout County Galway. It is an opportunity for self-expression, and for people to begin tapping deep memories and images. Taking part are: Áras Mhuire Nursing Home, Tuam; St Anne's CNU, Clifden; St Brendan's CNU, Loughrea; Áras Ronan on Inis Mór; St Mary's, Athenry; and Ballinasloe Hospital.

Regeneration, Newbridge

"Regeneration – Revamp (ourselves) Recycle (costumes) Release (our inhibitions) through Voice and Body Language"; this is how Newbridge's Scribblers Inc. Writing Group and Crooked Sixpence Theatre have approached Bealtaine. Working in the Riverbank Arts Centre, they are creating performances for various Care Centres. "This initiative was conjured up by our members. We felt we wanted to 'Reinvent' ourselves through stories, poems and performance," says Sheila Sheridan of Scribblers Inc.

‘Now strike your note’

Take off from here. And don’t be so earnest,
so ready for the sackcloth and the ashes.
Let go, let fly, forget.
You’ve listened long enough. Now strike your note.

Seamus Heaney
From Section XII, Station Island (Faber & Faber Ltd.)

The Bealtaine theme for this year — ‘Now strike your note’ — reflects a confident maturity in the Festival’s ambition for participants. It marks a clarion call to creativity.

‘All roads are one’ the poet concludes in ‘Station Island’. The poet is hoping for a return home while never ceasing to move forward. Amidst all the byways, marvels and travails encountered comes a powerful voice of liberation, epitomised in those instructive words: ‘You’ve listened long enough. Now strike your note.’

We hear it, we understand it. With the poet, we too can ‘Let go, let fly, forget’; growing out of who we have been and are, we can blossom. He also says: ‘it’s time to swim/ out on your own and fill the element/ with signatures on your own frequency’. We must be who and what we are, it suggests. Such words offer a worthy theme for art, for activity, for enjoyment, perfect for our 2008 Festival of Creativity in Older Age.

Seamus Heaney continues to produce poetry which thrills with originality and conviction, with belief in the art of poetry and in the domain of the imagination.

According to the Swedish Academy, who awarded Heaney the Nobel Prize in 1995, his poems, are distinguished by “lyrical beauty and ethical depth”... poems “which exalt everyday miracles”.

Seamus Heaney
(photo: PA Photos)

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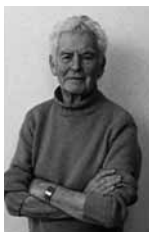
Great Scott

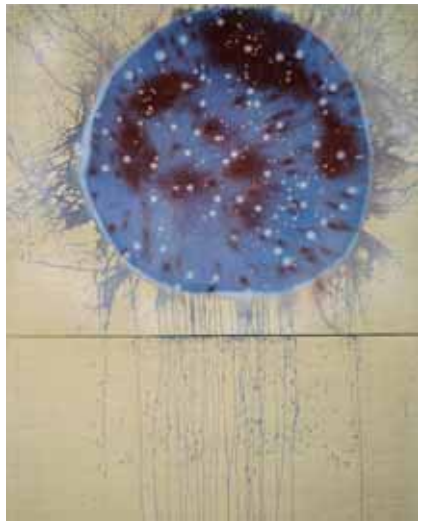
Applauded by President McAleese for his "formidable ambassadorship for art at home, for art and Ireland abroad", Patrick Scott has been one of the most influential abstract artists of our time. His famous series of large 'Gold' paintings are significant contributions to modern art, admired for their originality of form and clarity of vision.

His beautiful 'Purple Device' painting was chosen by the artist for the cover of this year's Bulletin. The image is one of mystery, a threat perhaps, but there is also light within. Perhaps creativity and nurturing can be boosted by the release of potential broiling within, now emerging.

Patrick Scott's work also includes tapestry, mosaic design, and printmaking. Represented in public and private collections internationally, he continues painting into his eighties.



Patrick Scott



Mewsings...

As a designer, Scott was responsible for Iarnród Éireann's mainline train colours - the black, orange and white colour scheme being inspired by his pet cat.

'Purple Device' © Patrick Scott 1963 reproduced by kind permission of the artist

> **"I never feel age ... If you have creative work, you don't have age or time."**
> **Sculptor Louise Nevelson at 80**

Her Infinite Variety:
The many flavours of Bealtaine

We now live longer, healthier lives and find ourselves with an extraordinary opportunity to transform the experience of older age. The variety in Bealtaine is your opportunity to create, to transform. While our listings give you the full breath of the activities happening around the country, certain things have caught our eye.

Intergenerational work is playing an important role this year, and not just in big projects like Magic Me on p.8. In fact, intergenerational projects are going on from Arranmore down to Macroom with younger and older people creating, collaborating and learning from one another.

As ever, there are invaluable chances for you to try something new, from printmaking with Cork Printmakers to making music with The Contemporary Music Centre in Dublin. 'Publish and Be in Demand' in Meath, or the Grenagh ICA want all of you non-painters; just bring your brush, if you have one.

If you want to dance in the summer, there are plenty of opportunities with contemporary dance in Thurles, Line Dancing in Crossabeg, Shoe the Donkey in Westport and even some Maypole Dancing in Drumreilly.

Traditional skills are still strong. For example, Forum in Letterfrack are celebrating skills like butter making and trad dancing, while the St Louis Stitchers are holding a Needlework Fair in New Ross.

And who could resist intriguing titles like Deilg Inis' 'Raw War', 'Tobar an Cheoil' in Cavan or the Newcestown Friendship Group's 'Luscious Legs'!

It's all there waiting for you. Read the listings. Ring the number. Go on, strike your note.

"To get to the existential core of the condition of aging, Beauvoir entered dark, uncharted territory and came out of it all the wiser for the benefit of her readers."

Reviewer on *'The Coming of Age'* (1972) by Simone de Beauvoir.

"To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth.
Pearl S. Buck"

Do you believe in Magic?

'Magic Me'
(photo: Media Group, Magic Me)

"I hear from older people that young people never talk to them and young people question why older people don't understand them." So says Sue Langford, founder of Magic Me, which organises arts activities between older and younger people.

Set up in 1989, Magic Me now trains and facilitates over 1,000 school children as visitors to 2,500 people in nursing homes in the UK. Magic Me also involves itself with everything from photography and exhibitions to writing, poetry, drama, music, all making that magic that only occurs when different generations join forces to create together.

Magic Me believes in a 'we do it' and 'we help you to do it' philosophy. Their work is about combating isolation and addressing prejudices; it is about ageing, younger people and cultural difference. And it provides and supports learning and giving through the arts.

> **"Rigid notions of age and aging limit the mind and imprison the spirit. Like all stereotypes, they evaporate on closer examination."**
> **American Visionary Art Museum**

Ballymote Workshop sets the pace...

More...

Weekly workshops began in January. Project concludes on 31 May.

For more details, contact Sligo Arts Service T: 071 911 1980

'Magic Me'
(photo: Anthony Leete)

This is a unique project. For the first time, Magic Me are bringing their respected and proven working techniques out of London and into Ballymote's close-knit community. They will bring together people from local immigrant communities and older Irish people. This will culminate in a presentation and an exhibition of their work during Bealtaine's last weekend.

This partnership will be led by Magic Me's Sue Mayo and Sligo-based artist Karen Webster, who has previously worked on youth projects in Nicaragua as well as in Ireland. Working together, the group will explore differences and similarities through the arts.

So what will happen when Magic Me, from a city where community has to be 'created', come to Ballymote, where, until recently, everyone knew everyone else? What will happen when younger migrants, speaking other mother tongues, get talking to older Irish people? It should present some revealing outcomes for its Bealtaine showcase.

Organised by Age & Opportunity and Sligo Arts Service, this project is designed as an exploration which may set exciting foundations for future projects.

Dance, Dance

'Too Young To Be Old' (photo: Ross Kavanagh)

Too Young To Be Old

'Too Young To Be Old' is a CoisCéim project in collaboration with the National Concert Hall. Enjoy a two-week course of workshops exploring dance and music, learning from CoisCéim's award-winning dancers and from NCH musicians. Sample a variety of dance styles and a wide range of musical favourites. Then, take part in a fresh performance in NCH's John Field Room.

CoisCéim, with support from the HSE, Dublin City Council and the NCH, are also running free taster workshops across Dublin (in dance and in music).

According to Phillipa Donnellan of CoisCéim, the inspiration for 'Too Young to be Old' comes in part from Busby Berkeley, the great musical choreographer, who never had a dancing lesson!

A Birthday to Remember

To celebrate her 50th birthday, dance tutor Anthea McWilliams will be dancing from Mizen Head to Malin Head. She has been working as an independent dance practitioner in Northern Ireland for over 18 years and particularly enjoys working with older people.

More...

Booking is essential for 'Too Young To Be Old'. For more details and costs of workshops (May 12-24) and for tickets to the performance (May 23-24, admission free) call The National Concert Hall T: 01 417 0000

For information on the free taster workshops, contact CoisCéim T: 01 878 0558

Dancing is celebrated in film at the IFI screenings of 'Ballets Russes' and Busby Berkeley's 'Me and My Gal' (p. 19)

Radical Movement:
Liz Lerman Dance Exchange

Following last year's outstanding work at Dance House, Age & Opportunity and Bealtaine are bringing Liz Lerman Dance Exchange back to work and perform with older dancers at two arts venues: Dunamaise in Portlaoise and Source in Thurles, which are both collaborating on this project.

Dance Exchange, a professional US-based company of dancers, makes groundbreaking new dance works which are performed by this intergenerational company on major stages around the world. Their dance encompasses movement, music, imagery and the spoken word.

For Bealtaine, Dance Exchange will develop a new performance beginning with workshops in April and culminating in a world premiere, '613 Radical Acts of Prayer', in Portlaoise on 31 May. These workshops are for older people regardless of experience. Is this your time to shine?

Taster workshops in April are followed by an intensive workshop week in May to create the performance.

"For the artist, collaboration is a rich field of discovery. The people, the organisation, the fundraising, teaching, performance and evaluation is all a vital part of 'the work'. The complete activity is the art, and is the aesthetic." – Liz Lerman.

More...

To take part or for more information on the free workshops or for tickets for the performance (31 May) contact Dunamaise Arts Centre: 057 866 3355

Liz Lerman Dance Exchange workshop, Bealtaine 2007 (photo: Photocall Ireland)

"The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes."
Frank Lloyd Wright

Seeded in Bealtaine

Each generation stands on the shoulders of its preceding generation. And each generation seeds something new, something beautiful, out of its own experiences and observations. Bealtaine too seeks to seed ideas and activities which continue, year on year and add substance for the future.

Two-Hander

Macushla Dance Club gained momentum from Liz Lerman Dance Exchange's workshop during Bealtaine last year. This year, in partnership with Ciotóg dancers, they are premiering 'Palimpsest' a new work by Ríonach Ní Néill, in Project, Dublin. Macushla is supported by Dublin City Council, Dance Ireland and the Community Foundation of Ireland.

Galway Lends An Ear To Its Elders

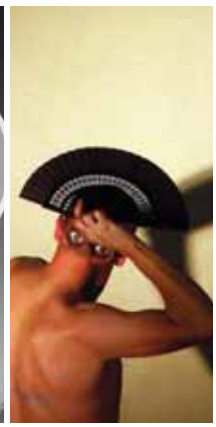
Hot on the heels of Bealtaine's [murmur] Dublin Docklands project last year, comes [murmur] Galway. Older Galwegians will record their stories for the locals and visitors using [murmur]. This is an audio storytelling project using mobile phones to share people's own stories that often go unheard.

Unforgettable

Written and performed by Pat Kinevane, 'Forgotten' is a one-man show that explores the lives of four people aged between 80 and 100. It had its first performances in Bealtaine 2006, where older audiences provided feedback to the playwright and helped to shape the final play. See the fruit of their labours as 'Forgotten' plays The Hugh Lane and Draíocht during the festival.

Bealtaine Abroad

Gwanwyn, the Welsh festival based on the Bealtaine model, is entering its second year while a festival similar to Bealtaine in the Netherlands will be launched this year. And we are delighted to welcome the European Network for Age and Culture to Dublin for their May conference.



More...

Booking for 'Palimpsest':
Project Arts Centre
(13-17 May)
T: 01 881 9613
[murmur] Galway
www.murmur.ie
Booking for 'Forgotten':
Draíocht (2-3 May)
T: 01 885 2622
The Hugh Lane (16 May)
T: 01 222 5553

Dancers from the Macushla Dance Club and Ciotóg in 'Palimpsest', choreographed by Ríonach Ní Néill (photo: Jonathon Mitchell)

[murmur] Dublin Docklands project, Bealtaine 2007 (photo: Máirtín Lane)

Pat Kinevane in Fishamble's 'Forgotten', Irish Theatre Institute showcase (photo: Veronica Forsgren)

Silver Stars:
Older Gay Men's Lives in Song

(photo: Corbis)

More...

Booking for Silver Stars
Project Arts Centre, Dublin
(15-17 May)
T: 01 881 9613

Booking for Palimpsest
Project Arts Centre, Dublin
(13-17 May)
T: 01 881 9613

This year, at Project in Dublin, a new and exciting performance will take place, the outcome of workshops, imagination and seizing the idea. Over the years, Bealtaine has offered opportunities for many older people to give voice, to bear witness to the power of creativity, openness and passion. Instigated by Age & Opportunity and Bealtaine, Silver Stars is one such opportunity.

When songwriter Seán Millar took a taxi from Limerick to Dublin, the driver's stories sparked an idea, and Silver Stars was born. Seán has long been an explorer of ideas and ideals in his songs, including ideas of manliness.

So, having talked and listened to older gay men, the songs of Silver Stars capture the tales they tell. To bring these songs to life, the men developed performances with the support of Seán, lighting designer Sarah Jane Shields and theatre innovators Brokentalkers.

The result will be a premiere at Project; a performance that will surprise and delight you.

Also at Project
As well as 'Silver Stars', Macushla Dance Club and Ciotóg are performing the world premiere of 'Palimpsest', an exciting, collaborative dance piece that brings together performers of different ages.

> **"To know how to grow old is the master work of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living."**
> **Henri Frederic Amiel**

Cultural Institutions

The leading national cultural institutions have long been friends of Bealtaine. Each year, they devise new programmes and events and, in many instances, provide ongoing opportunities through the year for older people to engage with the arts. Some events are featured elsewhere, such as the **National Concert Hall** hosting music and dance workshops and a performance with partners CoisCéim (p. 10).

The **Crawford Gallery** is hosting special Bealtaine tours of their exhibitions every Tuesday afternoon throughout May as part of their celebration. Each tour will be followed by a creative workshop with all materials provided.

Once again, the **National Gallery** has organised a nationwide 'Drawing Day' (on 24 May). It will be launched by artist Mick O'Dea, and event tutor is Eamon Coleman. Check your closest venue for times.

Apart from the Drawing Day, the National Gallery offers: 'Spiritual Responses', looking at artists inspired by the Gallery's collection; a talk on the Renaissance collection; workshops on Drawing and on Creative Writing; and guided tours every Saturday and Sunday.

As well as supporting events around the country, **Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)** at Kilmainham offers introductory talks and tours every Friday from 2-23 May.

Events at the **Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane** include a poetry reading by the Bealtaine Writers Group in response to the gallery collection, and a Conservation Open Day, a must for fine art lovers. Also, 'Mirror Images', run by artist Felicity Clear, should entice any fun-loving grandparent (grandaunt or granduncle too) to get creative in a fun portrait-making workshop with their grandchildren.

Drawing Day, 24 May

Antrim

Ballymena Museum
T: 028 2563 5977

Clare

County Museum
T: 065 682 3382

Cork

Crawford Gallery
T: 021 490 7855

Glucksman Gallery
T: 021 490 1844

Donegal

County Museum
T: 074 912 4613

Dublin

The Hugh Lane
T: 01 222 5564

Draíocht
T: 01 885 2622

Graphic Studio
T: 01 679 8021

IMMA
T: 01 612 9900

The LAB
T: 01 222 5455

National Gallery of Ireland
T: 01 663 3505

National Museum of Ireland (All Dublin Locations)
T: 01 677 7444

National Print Museum
T: 01 660 3770

Galway
City Museum
T: 091 532 467
Kerry
Muckross Traditional Farms
T: 064 31 440
Kilkenny
Butler Gallery
T: 056 776 1106
Laois
Dunamaise Arts Centre Portlaoise
T: 0502 63 355
Limerick
City Gallery
T: 061 310 633
Hunt Museum
T: 061 312 833
Louth
County Museum, Dundalk
T: 042 27 056
Highlanes Gallery Drogheda
T: 041 980 3311
Mayo
National Museum of Ireland
T: 094 903 1751
Waterford
Museum of Treasures
T: 051 304 500
Wexford
Arts Centre
T: 053 912 3764

Workshop at the National Gallery of Ireland as part of 'Arts for All Ages' (photo: Aileen Nolan)

The **National Museum** is hosting a trove of events during Bealtaine.

National Museum of Ireland – T: 01 648 6332
Archaeology, Kildare Street
This Bealtaine, try the guided Mystery Tour for adults, of unusual artefacts. Write an 'Ode to a Bog Body' at the creative writing workshop. There is also a unique workshop in 'Water Media and Collage', an 'Ancient Civilisations' tour of Roman, Egyptian and Cypriot collections, a drama workshop called the 'Stuff of Myth' and a 'Viking Tour' for adults!

National Museum of Ireland – T: 01 648 6453
Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks
Collins Barracks is hosting a conference and exhibition on 'Irish Women and the Vote: Suffrage and Citizenship'. Also, you can enjoy talks and conversations on fashion design; on the folklore of Bealtaine; on the Irish Scouts; on Irish women's suffrage movement; on the Irish Defence Forces; on the 19th Century Royal Barracks; on conservation of the Bantry Boat; on the 1916 Proclamation; on why the Museum collects; and on the Ross Camera.

National Museum of Ireland – T: 094 903 1751
Country Life, Turlough Park House, Castlebar
Hosts Sonia Oldham's Bealtaine walk through the wild flowers and plants, with sketching opportunities too, and, in the afternoon, her demonstration of infusions, tinctures, oils, ointments and other properties associated with wildlife and folklore.

National Museum of Ireland – T: 01 648 6332
Natural History
'Watery Life' is a photographic competition for older people. Your subject? Fauna, Flora or Landscapes. You've observed long enough, now take your shot!

The Wonderful World of Modern Libraries

A woman in her late 80s once told Susie Minto, "I lost the will to live when I had to go and live at the community hospital. Now, I have remembered so many stories and I want to tell them to my grandchildren. It has given me back the will to live." Susie says that this is the only endorsement she needs to convince her that engaging with people and helping them to remember stories is worthwhile and rewarding.

A group enjoying arts classes in Kanturk Library during Bealtaine (photo: Jim Clancy)

More...

For Susie's workshops (12, 19, 26 May), call The National Library T: 01 603 0277
'I have always wanted to try...' is being run in various library branches in Tipperary. T: 0504 21 555

"You must have been inoculated with a gramophone needle at birth!" someone once said to Susie Minto.

She has been telling stories all her life. Now, you can come listen and learn with Susie at the National Library's Bealtaine workshops 'How To Tell Stories' and 'What Stories Make Me, Me'.

Learn the craft of storytelling. Discover ways of opening up your imagination and of creating your own stories; or indeed of improving existing skills. Let Susie – steeped in Irish and Scottish imaginings – share her 'gift of the gab' underneath the bookshelves.

Give it a Go!
'I have always wanted to try...' is the name of a clever Bealtaine idea from the Tipperary library services. They are inviting regular visitors to bring a friend for a day of learning and fun. Sessions include e-mail, book clubs and digital photography.

And, of course, they're not alone; your local library will have a Bealtaine programme. Libraries have organised workshops, book club activities, activity days, talks. For instance, there is china painting (Cavan); writer in residence (Kerry); a workshop on Heaney's 'Station Island' (Wexford); music and song (Fingal); music appreciation, crochet (Meath); 'taster' events in art, gardening, music (Waterford); writing your life story (Pearse St., Dublin) – the list is endless and varied. Check the libraries sections in the Listings (pages 23 to 40).

The Glen Road:
Bealtaine sessions in Donegal

Older musicians are the caretakers and makers of music, of song, of rhythm. They are the stuff of legend, and they pass the work of their genius to successive generations. Thus, tradition not only survives but thrives.

For the past three years, Bealtaine has produced extraordinary concerts where older Irish traditional musicians have played alongside younger musicians to transmit value, quality and contributions of importance.

The 2008 'Bealtaine Sessions' will go 'on tour' to perform in nearby townlands in unique, one-off concerts which will become nights of legend.

In music-drenched Donegal, this new Bealtaine strand will be based around Kitty Sean Cunningham, a musician whose vibrancy and attitude at 88 embodies many of the Bealtaine ideals.

Kitty passes on her father's lilts, and is herself a treasure of trad: "Lilter, singer, dancer, entertainer, her house is always open, night and day," Ronan Galvin says. "Kitty has a great head for tunes as well as songs. She remembers tunes very clearly and passes them on to anyone who is interested".

Other musicians in these sessions include: Eddie Gara (81), melodeon and piano accordion player, now living in the UK but always coming back to Glencolmcille to share his music; Con McGinley (a mere 92) a fiddler of note with a reservoir of old tunes from his locality; Bridget Gara (84), melodeon and accordion player from Leemagowra in Ardara. All four have unique and individual repertoires from their localities in Glencolmcille.

More...

Booking is essential.
Teach Huidí Beag, Bunbeg (15 May). Call Ian Smith
T: 086 170 1919
Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny (16 May)
T: 074 912 0777
Kilcar Parish Hall (17 May)
T: 086 170 1919

"... transmitting value and quality and things of importance ... with the bit of craic alongside."

Kitty Sean Cunningham
(photo: Day Care Centre, Carrick)

"It is not how old you are, but how you are old."
Marie Dressler

Bealtaine All-Ireland Film Tour

Organised by access> CINEMA and the Irish Film Institute, the All-Ireland Film Tour project is run with local groups and venues and is sponsored by Seven Seas. The utterly charming 'Grow Your Own' is this year's film. The tour will launch in the Irish Film Institute on 2 May with garden guru, Helen Dillon.

'Grow Your Own' is a life-affirming comedy about a quiet neighbourhood allotment, disturbed and invigorated by the arrival of new growers with different ways of doing things. Underneath its earthy charm, this is a film about urban life today.

Helen Dillon
A scene from 'Grow Your Own'
at 35 venues during Bealtaine

May 02

Irish Film Institute
T: 01 612 9407

Conary Film Club, Avoca
T: 0402 30 802

May 06

Dunamaise Arts Centre Portlaoise
T: 057 866 3355

Tuarard Arts Centre Moate
T: 090 648 2042

May 07

Glór Irish Music Centre Ennis
T: 065 684 3103

Linenhall Arts Centre Castlebar
T: 094 902 3733

The Picture House Wexford Arts Centre
T: 053 912 3764

May 08

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
T: 057 912 2911

Tipperary Excel, Arts and Cultural Centre
T: 062 80 520

May 09

Courthouse Arts Centre Tinahely
T: 0402 38 529

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
T: 057 912 2911

May 10

Boyle Film Club
T: 071 966 3242

Galway Film Soc, Town Hall Theatre, Galway
T: 091 569 777

May 11

Boyle Film Club
T: 071 966 3242

May 12

Droichead Arts Centre Drogheda
T: 041 983 3946

axis Ballymun
T: 01 883 2100

Mermaid Arts Centre Bray
T: 01 272 4301

May 13

Old Market House Arts Centre, Dungarvan
T: 058 48 944

May 14

Garter Lane Theatre, Waterford
T: 051 855 038

May 15

SGC Dungarvan
T: 1520 927 010

Achill Cultural Cinema Achill Island
T: 087 938 6281

Fermanagh Film Club, Enniskillen
T: 048 66 387 049

The Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre, Naul
T: 01 802 0898

May 20

Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny
T: 074 912 0777

Town Hall Theatre, Kiltimagh
T: 094 938 1494

St John's Arts Centre Listowel
T: 068 22 566

May 21

Town Hall Arts Centre Charlestown
T: 094 925 5812

May 22

Ramor Theatre, Virginia
T: 049 854 7074

May 23

Ballina Arts Centre
T: 096 73593

Cinemobile, Letterfrack
T: 091 751 629

Roscommon Arts Centre
T: 090 662 5824

May 27

Friars Gate Theatre Kilmallock
T: 063 98 727

Kerry Arts Office – Caherciveen Co Library
T: 066 947 2287

May 28

Kerry Arts Office – Killarney Co Library
T: 064 32 655

Source Arts Centre Thurles
T: 0504 90 204

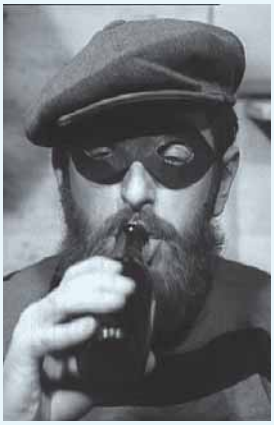
May 29

Kerry Arts Office – Tralee Co Library
T: 066 712 1200

May 30

Cinemobile, Castlerea
T: 091 751 629

Reel Enjoyment:
Bealtaine Festival Film Season



Every Friday in May, the Annual Bealtaine Film Season returns to the Irish Film Institute (IFI). Five films to inspire you to try something new and strike your own note! Just like the monthly Wild Strawberries film club, these screenings are free to anyone over 50 but tickets must be booked in advance.

The screenings at IFI for Bealtaine are 'Grow Your Own'; 'O'Donoghue's Opera' & 'Fleá Ceoil', film treasures from the Irish Film Archive on music in Irish traditional life (presented by the IFI's Archive curator, Sunniva O'Flynn); 'Orchestra Seats' from France, a tale of love, springtime and Paris; 'Ballets Russes', a glorious trove of footage and interviews with icons from the Ballet world with juicy tales of jealousy, rivalries and clashing egos; and the great Busby Berkeley's 'Me And My Gal', a musical with Gene Kelly, Judy Garland and George Murphy.

Putting you in the picture

Film is not exclusive to the professionals during Bealtaine. Some enterprising ventures take place in nursing homes, with groups and in schools. This year, at Abbeyleix District Hospital Day Centre, they will make a video of their reminiscence workshops and activities. Áras Inis Gluaire are creating a 'Bóthar na Smaointe' with images and words of older people and archive material to be shown at Belmullet's Civic Centre.

More...

IFI Films, Temple Bar
T: 01 612 9407
All films start at 11.00am

Fri 2 May
Grow Your Own

Fri 9 May
O'Donoghue's Opera
& Fleá Ceoil

Fri 16 May
Orchestra Seats
(In French with English subtitles)

Fri 23 May
Ballets Russes

Wed 28 & Fri 30 May
Me And My Gal

'Ballets Russes'
Ronnie Drew in 'O'Donoghue's Opera'
'Me and My Gal'
'Orchestra Seats'

The Ambassadors

Left page:
Robert Ballagh, John Quinn, Mick Lally, Paddy Moloney, Geraldine Plunkett, Veronica Dunne

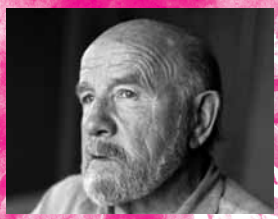
Right page:
Liam Clancy, Tomás MacAnna, Eamon Morrissey, Jennifer Johnston, Eugene McCabe, Joanna Banks

Our Bealtaine Ambassadors proved a great success in their inaugural year last year, highlighting the role of Bealtaine in celebrating older artists.

The Bealtaine Ambassadors are artists of the highest rank and reputation, whose association with the Festival mission is an invaluable endorsement. Their presence honours all older people who participate in Bealtaine and indeed all who are associated with the festival.

We are delighted to welcome Paddy Moloney as our latest Ambassador. The Chieftains, formed in 1963, were recently described by the BBC as "the band who helped to save traditional Irish music". Paddy, like Bealtaine, is no stranger to partnership and collaboration, having worked with musicians as diverse as Tom Jones and Mick Jagger through to Carlos Nuñez and Nanci Griffiths. With Grammies, an Oscar and an Emmy, Paddy and the Chieftains continue to cultivate new work from the tradition.

Learning from the Best:
Ambassador mentoring



This year four of our Ambassadors take to the roads as mentors: Robert Ballagh will spend two evenings meeting with the Ratoath Community Art Group at The Venue, helping them prepare for an exhibition of their work in the Toradh Gallery in Ashbourne in May; Eamon Morrissey heads for Cork's drama groups – Snippets and Active Pulse – for a voice workshop; and author John Quinn will work with the Loughrea Writers Group; Jennifer Johnston will be in the Letterkenny Regional Cultural Centre during Bealtaine, hosting a writer session for older people.

On 10 May, Jennifer Johnston will also meet with Book Lovers of every age to share the joy of reading! This is the Big Book Group, organised by Donegal County Council's Libraries and Arts Service where local book groups come together. The book up for discussion with the author is her 'Two Moons', a beautifully written novel about an older lady approaching death and the events taking place in her family. This is free to Library Book Group Members but prior booking is essential.

P. Moloney (photo: Paul Faith/PA Wire)
L. Clancy (photo: John Ohle)
T. MacAnna (photo: John Ohle)
V. Dunne (photo: John Ohle)
J. Banks (photo: Tommy Clancy)

"He who is of calm and happy nature will hardly feel the pressure of age, but to him who is of an opposite disposition youth and age are equally a burden."
Plato

Take Care

The languages of art and of caring are human languages which cross boundaries (such as age), cultures and communities; and they are tools for community growth, for personal development and for sharing. Nowhere is this more evident than in the activities and events created for Bealtaine in Care Centres throughout Ireland.

For example, Raheen Hospital Daycare Centre in Clare has a number of projects to celebrate the month: 'People, Places and Song', 'Wise Ways' and a collaboration with IMMA, creating art inspired by the work of outsider artist Madge Gill.

Wicklow's 'Serendipity' theatre group do everything from organisation to performance. "Audiences get involved through dance, song and rhythm instruments, and include people challenged by dementia as well as people with extremely sharp minds", according to founder, Hedda Kaphengst.

Also in Wicklow, Chyrstal Dowd coordinates 'A Life Less Ordinary – Through Colour' combining words with pictures by painting a memory or experience and writing a paragraph to go with the image on display, at St Colman's Hospital and Day Centre, Rathdrum and at Wicklow District Hospital Day Centre.

A Complete Transformation

Age & Opportunity, with HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster, introduced an innovative programme, now called Creative Exchanges (previously Arts in Care) seven years ago. It offered training in the arts (and FETAC accreditation) to nurses, care attendants and others working with Residential and Day Care Centres for older people. One outcome has been "a complete transformation of the environment" for both residents and staff, according to HSE project coordinator, Patricia Carroll. A booklet, 'Creative Exchanges', is available for more information.

More...

For copies of 'Creative Exchanges – Using the Arts to Transform the Experience of Residents and Staff in Care Centres for Older People'
T: 01 805 7709
www.olderinireland.ie

"The true evil is not the weakening of the body, but the indifference of the soul."
Andre Maurois

Carlow

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Carlow Local Authority Arts Office
County Buildings, Athy Road
Writing workshops at St Dympna's Hospital.
T: Aileen Nolan
059 913 6234

Cavan

Film (p. 18)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Cavan County Council Arts Office
Watercolours exhibition & talk.
T: Kenneth Redmond
049 437 8548

Cavan County Museum
Ballyjamesduff
Céilí with storytelling, music & dance; tour of historical sites with Positive Age Group.
T: Savina Donohoe
049 854 4070

Ramor Theatre
Virginia
Music Network tour 'Tobar an Cheoil' traditional music & song.
T: Mary Hanley
049 854 7074

Public Libraries

Bailieborough Branch Library
Art classes (free).
T: 042 966 5779

Cootehill Library and Arts Centre
Art classes (free); reminiscences, intergenerational sessions; Michael Coleman exhibition.
T: Sinéad McArdle, Library
049 555 9873
Bernie Deasy, Archives
049 437 8300

Johnston Central Library
Cavan Town
'Defend and Inspire', Ulster Architectural Heritage Society exhibition; reminiscences, intergenerational sessions; china painting & stained glass; classic film. Free.
T: Emma Clancy, Library
049 437 8500
Bernie Deasy, Archives
049 437 8300

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Ballyhaise / Castletara Social Club
Arts & crafts exhibition.
T: Carmel McIntyre
049 433 8308 /
087 951 9942

Positive Age Cavan
Visual & performing arts exhibitions in Cavan & Monaghan. Brochure available.
T: Maisie Smith
049 436 0433

Care Centres

Cavan Social Services
Cathedral Road, Cavan
Exhibition & socials, dancing; outings.
T: Sr Ursula
049 433 1134

Clare

Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 14)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Clare County Arts Office
County Library, Mill Rd., Ennis
Concerts, exhibitions, workshops.
T: Siobhán Mulcahy
065 684 6267

St Joseph's Hospital Arts Project, Ennis
'A Spring Awakening' with dance & concert; hand sculpture workshops, playreading & poetry, 'Meitheal' day & more.
T: Eleanor Feely (artist in residence) 087 961 2118 / Arts Office 065 684 6267

Care Centres

Ennistymon Community Hospital
'May Madness' with music, dance & more.
T: Mary Lucas
065 707 1622

Raheen Hospital Daycare Centre
Tuamgraney, Scariff
'People, Places and Song' recordings, photographic portraits & landscapes at Gallery/Studio; 'Wise Ways' artworks using clay & written 'stories' at Scariff Library; project inspired by the work of Madge Gill (supported by IMMA, Hospital Support Group, Iniscealtra Festival).
T: Anne O'Driscoll
061 923 215

Cork

Drawing (p. 14)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Cork Printmakers
Wandesford Qy., Crosses Green
Printmaking workshops for the beginner (free).
T: 021 432 2422

Crawford Art Gallery
Emmet Place, Cork
Tour & workshop. Every Tue in May. Booking essential.
T: 021 490 7857

Frameworks Films
Faraday Ct., Rockboro Ave., Old Blackrock Rd.
Screening of film about oral history project.
T: Emma Bowell
021 432 2454

Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhúirne, Mághcromtha
Members' exhibition.
T: Bríd Cranitch
026 45 733

Tigh Filí Arts Centre
Cork Arts Theatre, Camden Crt., Carrolls Qy.
'The Music in Me' exhibition; talks & workshops.
T: Leslie Ryan
021 450 9274

West Cork Arts Centre
North Street, Skibbereen
'Arts for Active Mind, Arts for Health', events to showcase our programme.
T: Justine Foster
028 22 090

Public Libraries

Cork City Libraries
Grand Parade, Cork
Readings, talks, workshops & demos on arts & crafts; tours of literary interest; Irish-language activities; music recitals, exhibitions.
T: Eamonn Kirwan or branch librarians
021 492 4900

Cork County Library and Arts Service
County Hall, Cork.
Over 140 events in 28 libraries.
T: Sinead Collins
021 434 6210

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Active Pulse Theatre Group
Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, Tramore Rd., Cork
Three one-act plays, in Cork Arts Theatre.
T: 021 421 0698

Ballinascarthy Community Social Club for Older People
Ballinascarthy, Clonakilty
Painting & crafts display.
T: Betty Hennessy
087 241 4787

Bantry Active Retirement Association
Bara House, Bantry
Exhibition of paintings & photographs in Bantry.

Bishopstown Senior Social Centre
Wilton Park House, Bishopstown
Dance, fun, games, music, reminiscences. New seniors welcome.
T: Roger Coughlan
086 386 6975

Castlemagner Sínsir Club
Mallow
Art & photography by all ages, music & storytelling.
T: Kathleen Moylan
087 852 1808

Gateway Friendship Club Bandon
Sing-along; exhibition of crafts & paintings.
T: Joy Scanlon
021 477 5270 / 086 384 2966

Glanmire Senior Citizens Group
Community Centre, Riverstown
Floral arrangements; exhibition of paintings; crochet; knitting; greeting cards.
T: Ann Holland
021 486 6067

Grenagh ICA
Never painted a picture? Just bring a brush to Rathduff Hall.
T: Ann Carleton
021 488 6224

Legion of Mary Old Folks Club
Sth Parish Community Assoc., Sawmill St., Cork
'There's No Place Like Home' concerts.
T: Liz O'Donovan
021 427 4143

Macroom Senior Citizens Club
Sullane Haven, Lucey's Ln.
Storytelling; music, song & dance. At Fr Ryan Hall. 'Good Auld Days' at Briary Gap.
T: Pat O'Connell
026 41698

Moving Age
Farranree Family Resource Centre, Closes Grn.
Song; dance; art; storytelling; reminiscence.
T: Pauline O'Leary
021 430 1030

Newcestown Friendship Group
Cladagh Hse., Mossgrove, Newcestown
'Béaloideas Bhaille Noís', hand-printed book. 'Luscious Legs', a calendar.
T: Betty M Smith
021 733 8177

Nifty Fifty Plus Club
Dromina, Charleville
Children inspire us to 'Strike our Note'.
T: Maureen Collins
063 70 212

Snippets Historical and Cultural Drama Group
90 Blarney St., Cork
'Variety Show' song, music, comedy.
T: Phil O'Regan
021 430 0100

Care Centres

Care Choice Ballynoe
Whites Cross, Cork
Intergenerational music.
T: Clodagh Whelan
021 430 0534

Care Choice Macroom
Fr Ryan Hall, Macroom
'Down Memory Lane', a short, seated exercise session with music to encourage creativity. TY students will sing. Macroon Active Retirement Group entertain with dance, poetry & an old-time fashion display.
T: Eileen O'Dea

Care Choice Montenotte
Middle Glanmire Rd.
'Shall We Dance', a variety performance by residents.
T: 021 486 1777

Care of the Elderly, St Joseph's Ward
Bantry General Hospital
'Pat McCarthy & the Stories he Tells!', the author & storyteller will share his stories.
T: Sarah Cairns
027 52 904

Charleville McAuley Day Care Centre
Main St.
A variety concert for young & young at heart; art workshops & display.
T: 063 81 971

Court Writers Group
O'Connell Court, Sheltered Housing, Windmill Rd., Cork
Launch of 'The Rambling House' book.
T: Catherine Cogan
021 431 6076

Deerpark Nursing Home
Seafield, Bantry
Launch of Artists' Books; music, song & poetry.
T: Bernie Cronin
027 52 711

Elderwell, Mount Carmel Hospital
Clonakilty
'Scoraíocht', music, stories & history on Radio 103FM; art, craft & life stories.
T: Mary Ahern
087 418 9860

Mallow Day Care Centre
Court View, New Rd.
'The Gathering and Scattering' song, dance & storytelling.
T: June O'Connell
022 22 398

McAuley Day Centre
Hospital Grounds, Midleton
Exhibition of art & crafts.
T: Maureen Kearney
021 463 1116

Schull Community Hospital
Colla Rd.
'Scoraíocht', music, set dancing & singing; storytelling.
T: Marian O'Donovan
028 28 120

St Luke's Nursing Home
Castlerock Rd., Mahon
Exhibition of art & crafts, knitting, card making; poetry; music, song & dance, reminiscences.
T: Eugene Browne
086 859 7766

St Patrick's Community Hospital
Tallow Rd., Fermoy
'Strike your Note, Say your Quote', music, workshops & other activities.
T: Ann O'Connor / Deirdre Fox 025 31 300

Donegal
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 14)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Donegal County Council Cultural Services
Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny
Prog. from Arts Service libraries, museums, archives & heritage with workshops, exhibitions, film, readings, dance & talks in partnership with others.
T: Sally Murphy
074 912 9186

Public Libraries

South Donegal Libraries
Big Book Group; breadmaking; reminiscence & more.
T: Bundoran Library 071 982 9665 / local libraries

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Ballyshannon Active Retirement
Teach na Gréine, Knather Rd., Ballyshannon
Museum of Country Life, places of historical interest & theatre visits.
T: Kitty Maguire 071 985 2266

Care of The Older Person Committee
263 St Joseph's Ave., Donegal
Outings to cinema & Bealtaine events.
T: 074 972 1677 / 074 972 1517 / 074 972 1539

Carndonagh Active Retirement Association
Malin Rd.
Showing our paintings; visit to cinema.
T: Violet Sheehan 074 937 4133

Donegal Family Resource Centre Ltd
New Row, Donegal
Dancing; crafts; painting.
T: Kathleen McHugh 074 972 5337

Dungloe Active Retirement Group
c/o CDP, Gweedore Rd.
Art day & gallery visit.
T: Nuala Campbell 074 952 1274

Learning Disability Services Retirement Group
24 Abbey Village, Kilmacrenan
'Getting Active', outings to the cinema & theatre.
T: Jacqui Boyle / Sadie Toye

Ozanam Active Age Group
Ozanam Community Centre, Dunfanaghy
A day of song, dance, music & storytelling.
T: 074 910 0888

Stranorlar Active Retired Group
Family Enrichment Centre
Needlecraft & woodwork.
T: 074 913 1245

Twilight Zone Active Age Group
Ballyshannon
Tea dance with entertainment.
T: Charmaine Patton 071 985 2238

Care Centres

Arranmore Day Centre
Arts & crafts exhibition, intergenerational booklet launch 'Fadó, Fadó in Arranmore'.
T: Nora Flanagan 074 952 0136

Buncrana Nursing Unit
Dancing, choir, music, céilí, storytelling, poetry.
T: Fiona Lavery / Madeline Guerin 074 936 1500

Donegal Day Hospital
Donegal Community Hospital, Donegal
Exhibition of craftwork.
T: Stephanie Darch 074 974 0638

Gweedore Day Care Centre
Meenaniller, Derrybeg P.O., Letterkenny
Storytelling, singing, music, dance & reminiscence.
T: Eileen Curran 074 953 2166

Killybegs Community Day Hospital
Old-time dance workshop; booklet of old recipes & cures.
T: Catherine / Bertie 074 973 2044

Lifford Day Hospital
Day of dance, trips to cinema (all private).
T: 074 914 1033

Manorcunningham Day Centre
Sing-along.
T: Elma McClean 085 754 6607

Newtowncunningham Day Centre
Storytelling, music & drama; traditional music.
T: Pauline Davies 074 915 6404

Radharc na Sléibhte SRU
Old Convent, Derry Rd., Carndonagh
Art exhibition in Library.
T: Denise Curtin / Pauline Porter 074 937 3336

Residents Group, Ramelton Community Hospital
Letterkenny
May crafts, poetry reading.
T: 074 915 1049

Stranorlar Day Hospital
St Joseph's Hospital
Irish music & dance.
T: Helen Foy 074 918 9731

Dublin
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 14)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

access CINEMA / IFI
The Studio Building, Meeting House Sq., D2
Nationwide film tour, sponsored by Seven Seas (p. 18).
T: 01 679 4420

Age & Opportunity
Marino Institute of Education, D9
'Magic Me' project in Ballymote (p. 8), Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in Laois and Tipperary (p. 11), Silver Stars project in Dublin (p. 13) and the Ambassador Mentoring project (p. 21).
T: Rebecca McLaughlin 01 805 7709

axis, Ballymun
Main St., Ballymun, D9
Theatre performances, concert, film; exhibition. Booking recommended.
T: 01 883 2100

CoisCéim Dance Theatre
14 Sackville Pl., D1
'Too Young To Be Old' (p. 10), collaboration with National Concert Hall, two-week music & dance workshop, leading to a performance. Booking essential via NCH (01 4170000). Also Open Dance Classes at NCH. Plus free taster dance or music workshops across Dublin.
T: 01 878 0558

The Contemporary Music Centre
19 Fishamble St., D8
'Making Music, Striking Sounds', workshop with instruments. Bring any instrument you have, or none! No experience required. Book a place.
T: Aoife Fitzpatrick 01 673 1922

Deilg Inis Living History Theatre Company
17a Castle St., Dalkey
'Raw War', a collaboration between Deilg Inis & patients at Leopardstown Park Hospital.
T: Shay Linehan 01 285 7802

Dublin City Council Arts Office
The Lab, Foley St.
Citywide events, workshops, exhibitions, talks, music concerts, film screenings, theatre events. Partnering with ARA groups.
T: Ann Marie Lyons / Jack Gilligan 01 222 7305

Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane
Parnell Sq. N, D1
An art conservation day; a performance of 'Forgotten' with discussion; poetry by the Bealtaine Writers Group. Also workshops, talks and 'Mirror Image' portrait workshop for grandparents & grandchildren.
T: Katy Fitzpatrick 01 222 5553

Fingal County Council Arts Office
County Hall, Main St., Swords
Traditional 'rambling house' parties in Naul. Audience participation.
T: Fiona Smith 01 890 6237

Irish Film Institute
6 Eustace St., D2
'Bealtaine Film Season' (p. 19), free film shows in May.
T: Alice Black 01 612 9407

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)
Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, D8
Talks & guided tours.
T: Curator, Education & Community Progs 01 612 9900

Macushla Dance Club & Ciotóg
'Palimpsest', world premiere (p. 12) at Project Arts Centre. Free weekly dance classes.
T: Ríonach Ní Néill for info 087 412 1775
T: Project Arts Centre Booking 01 881 9613

National Concert Hall
Earlsfort Tce., D2
'Too Young To Be Old' (p. 10).
T: 01 417 0000

National Gallery of Ireland
Merrion Sq. W
National Drawing Day (p.15), 'Art for All Ages', perspective drawing, revelation tour, creative writing & Renaissance tour, lectures. All free.
T: Joanne Drum 01 663 3505

National Library of Ireland
Kildare St., D2
'How To Tell Stories' & 'What Stories Make Me, Me' (p. 16).
T: Sarah O'Connor
01 603 0277

National Museum of Ireland

Archaeology
Kildare St., D2
Historical, art & drama events including tours & workshops.
T: Education & Outreach Dept. 01 648 6332

Decorative Arts & History
Collins Barracks, D7
Conference & various talks.
T: 01 648 6453

Natural History
c/o National Museum, Kildare St., D2
Bealtaine photographic competition, 'Watery Life'.
T: Education Staff
01 648 6332

Rathfarnham Castle (OPW)
Rathfarnham, D14
Photographic exhibition of Rathfarnham & castle.
T: Catherine O'Connor / Melissa Brennan
01 493 9462

Serendipity Theatre
44 Old Connawood Dr., Connaught Ave., Bray
'Marie-Louise', story with music, performed at 5 Dublin Nursing Homes.
T: Hedda Kaphengst
01 272 2580

Tallaght Community Arts Centre
Village Sq., Tallaght, D24
'Time and Ourselves', classical music & poetry readings.
T: Ruth Clancy
01 462 1501

Public Libraries

Dublin City Public Libraries
Dev. Office, Cabra Biblio. Cntr., Navan Rd., D7
Talks & seminars across the city. Real-life stories from John Quinn, author & broadcaster; Godfrey Graham, RTÉ cameraman; Pat Semple, author.
T: Development Office
01 674 4858

Fingal County Libraries
County Hall, Main St., Swords
Art, flower arranging, music & song, music appreciation & card craft.
T: Carmel Turner
01 890 5531

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Artane Active Retirement Group
Art exhibition & sequence dancing demo at St Paul's Youth Club; 'A View from Here', readings from creative writing project. Sponsored by Dublin City Council.

Ballyfermot Partnership Senior Citizens Forum
Ballyfermot Civic Centre, D10
Dance & music workshop.
T: Josephine Simeray
01 620 7165

Bayside Writers Group
Poetry in Baldoyle Library.
T: John O'Malley
087 754 2321

Bealtaine Writers Group
Reading at Irish Writers Centre & at Hugh Lane.
T: Rosy Wilson
01 286 4728

Blanchardstown Active Retirement Ireland
St Brigid's Community Centre, Church Ave., Blanchardstown, D15
Painting.
T: Philo O'Byrne
01 821 3046

Coolock Library Art Group
Barryscourt Rd., D17
Art exhibition in Library.
T: Gwen O'Byrne
087 696 7031
Agnes Pierce
086 167 5048

Dublin Airport Active Retirement Association
c/o ALSAA, Dublin Airport
'DAARA Activity Showcase', art display, movement to music demo, photographic display, digital photo workshop, sing-along & more.
T: Paddy Mullen
086 841 5000

Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown Network for Older People
Exhibition of work on display in the Concourse of Town Hall. Free.
T: Eddie Storey
01 285 7941

ECAP Project
Art exhibitions of group's work at Raheny & Ashbourne Libraries, at Talbot Lodge & TLC Nursing Homes.
T: Sheelagh McShane 086 255 5928

Foxrock Active Retirement Association
c/o 4 Park Ave., Holly Pk., Blackrock
Bealtaine quiz.
T: 01 289 4255

Malahide Active Retirement Association
'Now Strike Your Note'.

Rathmines Active Retired
St Mary's Centre, Richmond Hill
Painting & craftwork exhibition in St Mary's Community Centre.
T: Maureen McNally 01 452 2724

South Dublin Senior Citizens Club
43B Killinarden Enterprise Pk., Tallaght, D24
'Showcase: Come along, join along', open day of demonstrations by club members of activities, line dancing monster dance off & more. At venues in Tallaght & Crumlin.
T: 087 221 5080 / 01 452 8268

Swords Senior Citizens
Arts & crafts exhibition in Rathbeale Library. Supper dance in Senior Citizens Centre.
T: Teresa Woods 01 840 7589

U.3.A.
c/o Sheila Cullen, 16 Rosbeg Ct., Sutton, D13
Walking tour of Howth including the marina, flora & fauna.
T: 01 839 3868 / 01 832 3573 / 01 831 3470

Vista CDP – Community Development Project
78B Donore Ave., D8
Art exhibition.
T: 01 454 3074

Care Centres

Adelaide and Meath Hospital with Tallaght Community Arts Centre
Tallaght, D24
'ARThritis', an exhibition at Tallaght Community Arts Centre by people with arthritis.
T: Hilary Moss 01 414 2076 / Tony Fegan 01 414 5102

Beechlawn House Nursing Home
Grace Park Rd., Drumcondra, D9
'Accepting Multicultural Living Keeps You Young!', international songs & displays, in the national costumes of the staff.
T: Lorna Mooney / Susan McGuire 01 836 9622

Cairdeas, Day Care Centre
Brú Chaoimhín, Cork St., D8
Arts & crafts exhibition; also music & song, pottery workshops.
T: Mary Cullen / Siobhán McLoughlin 01 415 6561

Cuan Ros Community Unit for Older Persons
Navan Rd., D7
'A Century of Living – A Life Well Spent', visual art exhibition.
T: Lena John 01 824 5017

Dalkey Community Unit for Older Persons
Crafts & poetry workshops & other events.
T: Triona McMorrow 01 235 3207

HSE – Odin's Wood Day Care Centre
Kildonan Rd., Finglas W, D11
Basket weaving, jewellery making, cinema trip, talent contest, sing-along.
T: Paula Bermingham 01 814 2505

New Horizons for Older People
Activities Unit, Clonskeagh Hospital, D6
Art & craft exhibition of work by residents.
T: Rosemarie Flood 01 268 0515

New Mount Street Club – Irish Wheelchair Association
1-9 Heytesbury St., D8
Photo gallery of memories, incorporating creative writing extracts; 'Struck by Beauty', art project.
T: Rose McCoy 01 400 2849

Peamount Health and Social Care
Peamount Hospital, Newcastle
'Ah yes, I remember it well', music, art, dance & project work.
T: Marylee Tully 01 601 0300 ext 278

Rehabcare – Park House
Stillorgan Gr.
Creative writing workshop.
T: 01 210 8567

Rialto Day Care Centre
Community Centre, Sth Circular Rd.
'This Is Us And Our Work', display of clients' artworks.
T: 01 473 0443

St Clare's Day Care Unit
Griffith Ave., D9
Pottery & art exhibition.
T: Bláithín Stuart Kelly / Bernie Byrne 01 704 4228

St Mary's Community Centre
Richmond Hill, Rathmines
Art & crafts for / by older people, beginners & advanced art, crafts.
T: Joan Stedman 01 496 3085

St Mary's Hospital Activity Dept.
Phoenix Park, D20
Exhibition of art & craft; tours of Dublin.
T: Catherine Lawlor 01 625 0388

St Mary's Hospital, Occupational Therapy
Phoenix Park, D20
Music sessions, baking sale, woodwork / craft exhibition & horticulture.
T: 01 625 0381

Galway
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Burning Bright c/o Galway Arts Centre
47 Dominick St., Galway
'Burning Bright' (p. 4). Work exhibited in Galway Arts Centre in May.
T: Maeve Mulrennan 091 565 886

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association
Moher
Exhibition of photographs.
T: Gabriel Rohan 090 964 2531

Ballybane Active Retired Association
12 Cnoc na Cille
Showcase of short stories, poems, prose at The Town Hall, Galway.
T: Margaret Dowling 091 753 410

Forum
Ellis Hall, Letterfrack
Intergenerational festival in 16 venues from April to June.
T: Geraldine Kelly 095 41 116

Kilconnell Art Group
Art exhibition at Ballinasloe Library with traditional music.
T: Maura Warde 090 964 4052

Lackagh Senior Citizens
Turloughmore
Craft display & music session.

Newcastle Active Retirement Association
Westside Library, Seamus Quirke Rd., Galway
Quiz in Salthill Hotel.
T: Prionséas Ó Hógartaigh 091 523 973

Portumna and District Active Retirement Association
Portumna
Exhibition in local library.
T: Pauline O'Brien 090 974 1674

S.A.R.A. (Salthill Active Retirement)
c/o Eithne Mhic Aoidh, 45 Corrán Gleann Áird
'Hope Springs Eternal, Begorra' – a traditional sketch.
T: Mary O'Connor 091 523 204

Senior Citizen's Club
Convent Hall, Loughrea
Irish night: music, song, dance in the Arch Bar.

St Joseph's Court, Clifden
Residents' art exhibition.
T: Kathleen Aspell Mortimer 095 30 951

Care Centres

Áras Mhuire Nursing Unit
Dublin Rd., Tuam
Art exhibition at Town Hall; poetry reading at Áras Mhuire.
T: Mary Egan 093 24 655

Sonas / Cope
Mervue, Galway
Art exhibition, painting & pottery.
T: 091 753 402

Kerry

Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Kerry County Council
Rathass, Tralee
Film & workshops.
Creative writing in drama.
T: Kate Kennelly,
Arts Office 066 718 3541

St John's Theatre & Arts Centre
The Square, Listowel
Film; art exhibition by local Active Retirement Groups.
T: Joe Murphy 068 22 566

Public Libraries

Kerry County Library Network & Kerry County Council
Rathass, Tralee
Creative writing for plays.
Film at Caherciveen, Killarney & Tralee libraries.
Library Workshops:
Ballybunion – Storytelling & Drama, Listowel – Creative Writing & Caherciveen – Painting.
'Art for the Young at Heart'.
T: Kate Kennelly,
Arts Office 066 718 3541

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

I.R.D. Foilmore – Kells Co. Ltd
Community Centre, Old Railway Station, Kells
Poetry & short play readings in Irish & English.
T: Pat Kavanagh
066 947 7766

Tralee Older People's Forum
c/o Partnership Trá Lí, 7 Ashe St.
Variety of events.
T: Deirdre Kearin
066 718 0190

Care Centres

Cúil Dídin
Skahanagh, Tralee
'Reeling in the Years at Cúil Dídin', old photographs; public presentations & talks, with music, dance, poetry, short stories & more.
T: Catríona O'Connor
066 711 9090

Kildare

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Crooked Sixpence Theatre Company
Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge
'Regeneration' (p. 4) working with Scribblers Inc.
T: Kate Connaughton
086 256 6399

Scribblers Inc. Writers Group
Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge
'Reading our Writings for You' with Crooked House Theatre.
T: Sheila Sheridan
045 441 669

Care Centres

Craddock House Nursing Home
Craddockstown Rd., Naas
Art, crafts & flower exhibition. Open to public.
T: Daphne Wright
087 255 7851 /
045 898 600

Maynooth Day Care Centre
Dunboyne Rd.
'Torthaí ár Lámha' week-long exhibition.
T: Paula Chadwick /
Emer Creaton
01 628 9155

Moore Abbey Monasterevin
Music, dance & storytelling. Creative writing, set dancing, cookery, arts & crafts workshops. Barge trip with guided tour, historical re-enactment & talk.
A Quiz Walk.
T: Theresa Doyle
087 850 5718

Ré Nua Services
St John of God Kildare Services, Celbridge
'Visions of Celbridge' exhibition at Oakley Park House of photographs.
T: Colette Larkin
01 628 8161 ext 327

St Vincent's Hospital Activities Dept.
Athy
Card-making & display.
T: Michelle Wall
059 863 1614

Kilkenny

Drawing (p. 15)

Public Libraries

Kilkenny County Library Castlecomer Library
Talks and 'Home is Where the Heart Is', intergenerational history project. Photos & stories on show in library.
T: Mary Morrissey
056 444 0561

Loughboy Library, Waterford Road
Talks & demos: seanchaí; gardening; artist in residence; 'Kilkenny Life & Lore'; KARA exhibition & more.
T: Caitriona Kenneally
056 779 4176

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Art for Fun
c/o Loughboy Area Resource Centre, Bishop Birch Training Institute, Kilkenny
Art exhibition & open day.
T: Eamonn Downes 056 776 4700

Kilkenny Active Retirement Association
Bennettsbridge
A day out to a historic site, with talk by Dúchas specialist. A trip down river with dancing afterwards.
T: Bernadette Marnell

Care Centres

Day Care Centre HSE/SE
St Columba's Hospital, Thomastown
'Stretch Yourself for Bealtaine', with poetry, art, music, craft, dance & the launch of a Day Care Centre magazine.
T: Edwina Muldowney 056 775 4825

Laois

Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Dunamaise Arts Centre
Church St., Portlaoise
Dance project with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (p. 11).
T: 057 866 3355

Laois County Council Arts Office
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise
Armagh Rhymers 'mini-dramas' with music & comedy; 'Music & Dance Show'; Laois ICA Choir & more.
T: 057 867 4342

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

50+ Active Age Group, Portlaoise
Glenside
Visits to The National Gallery, to Dunamaise Theatre, to an Irish traditional concert. Folk dancing class.
T: Andrew McQuillan 057 862 1571

Care Centres

Day Care Centre
District Hospital, Abbeyleix
Reminiscence photos, song & music, video making.
T: 057 873 1204

District Hospital
Abbeyleix
Artist in Residence programme & art exhibition.
T: Jackie Whelan 057 873 1204

St Vincent's Hospital
Mountmellick
Fair Day, storytelling, music & dance events.
T: Jim Blanc 057 864 4782

Leitrim

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Aughavas Cloone Active Age
Aughnaglace, Cloone
Arts exhibition in local Community Centre.
T: Jim Canning 071 963 6102

Club Cluainin Active Age Group
c/o The Glens Centre, New Line, Manorhamilton
Arts & crafts exhibition with others.
T: Mary McFadden 071 985 5945

Drumreilly Active Age Group
c/o Frances O'Reilly, Crickeen, Carrigallen P.O. (via Cavan)
Maypole dance & social.
T: 049 433 3265

Glenfarne Active Age
Open day display of paintings. Visit to Library.
T: Joan Kelly

Kiltyclogher Active Age Group
Poetry reading, storytelling, visit to megalithic tomb & famine graves, history talks.

Rossinver Active Age Group
Manorhamilton
'Remembering Youth & Fun', storytelling, visit cinema, visit Knock.
T: 071 985 5429

Care Centres

Áras Breffni
Manorhamilton
Music & Irish dance; forming a drama group group, with support from Health Promotion Unit, Ballyshannon.

Ballinaglera Day Centre
Art exhibition, song & music.
T: Mary / Margie 071 964 3411

Day Hospital
Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton
Cinema; visit to coalmining museum in Arigna.
T: Maura Kennedy / Mary McShane 071 982 0421

Kilgar Day Care Club
c/o Leitrim Lakes Hostel, Kiltyclogher

Storytelling, music & song, leading to drama piece at the Glen's Centre, Manorhamilton. Print making, mixed media & painting, with an exhibition showcasing the work.

T: Carmel Loughlin
087 987 9138

Our Lady's Hospital
'Dancing & Music at the Crossroads', Manorhamilton & Drumkeen.

T: Mary McShane
071 982 0421

St Patrick's Community Hospital
Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon

Visit to play, The Dock; music & singing with the school choir; face masks & memory lane project; interpretation of Dream Diary, on permanent display in hospital.

T: Mary Finn / Niamh Flanagan / Freda Flynn
071 962 0011

Limerick
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Limerick City Council Arts Office
City Hall, Merchants Qy.

The Sapphire Trio, a chamber ensemble from the US, will perform to active retirement groups.

T: Arts Office 061 407 421 / 061 407 363

Public Libraries

Newcastlewest Public Library (Limerick Co Library)
Gortboy, Newcastlewest

Painting workshop.

T: Aileen Dillane
069 62 273 / 069 61 583

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Active Age
Social Centre, Henry St., Limerick

Outdoor sketching; silk painting; candle making & dried flowers; glass painting; exhibition at Dooradoyle library; set dancing, singing & lively conversation; 'Poems I learned at school', a morning of remembering; tour of Limerick County Hall & talks on its architecture, followed by a concert.

T: 061 314 111

Killulta Painters
c/o Baile na Carraige, Kildimo

'Bóthairín na Smaointe' exhibition of paintings in O'Deas Pub, Ferrybridge.

T: Phyllis O'Halloran
087 245 2336

Limerick Federation ICA
c/o Baile na Carraige, Kildimo

Inter-Guild Bealtaine Entertainment Competition encompassing music, dance, poetry, drama, singing & storytelling. Woodlands Hotel, Adare.

T: Phyllis O'Halloran
087 245 2336

Monaleen / Milford Active Retirement
GAA Club, School House Rd., Monaleen

'Happy Moments', light entertainment.

T: Kitty O'Keeffe
061 333 064

St John's Tower Artists
c/o Good Shepherd Sisters, Pennywell Rd.

Exhibition of paintings in Dooradoyle Library.

T: Sr Monica 061 415 178

Care Centres

Good Shepherd Day Care Centre
Pennywell Rd., Limerick

'Budding Forth to New Life', exhibition, fashion show, concert.

T: Sr. Rose O'Doherty
061 414150 / 061 415178

Milford Care Centre
Castletroy

Milford painting & ceramic exhibition.

T: Sheila Stone
061 485 800

Longford

Public Libraries

Longford County Library
Longford Town Centre

Art exhibition; 'Search for the Bluebells'; local talent at Backstage; intergenerational writing, art; quiz. With Longford Older Persons Network, VEC & Longford Community Resources Ltd.

T: Fiona Cooney / John Channon / Mary Toher / Seán Ahern
043 41 124

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Club '91
Cloncallow, Ballymahon
Variety show in Backstage Theatre.
T: Mai Reilly 090 643 2436

Dolmen Fáilte Club & Services
Aughnacliffe
'Ag Déanamh Ceoil', intergenerational event.
T: Sr Maeve Brady 043 86 309

Moatsiders Active Retirement Group
Rath Mhuire Resource Centre, Granard
'Dancing To Our Own Tune', intergenerational event exhibition at Library.
T: Jacqueline Kennedy 043 86 309

Care Centres

Day Care Centre
Longford Day Care Centre
Summer Flowers.
T: 043 50 155

St Joseph's Care Centre
Old Dublin Rd., Longford
'Spring into Action' - intergenerational quiz; art & craft exhibition in Longford Library; 'Blast From The Past', film day; song & dance; clay & collage; backstage at the theatre.
T: Bríd McGoldrick 043 50 195/ 043 50 102

Louth
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Droichead Arts Centre
Barlow Hse., Narrow West St., Drogheda
'Bealtaine Create' work-shops including: weaving, painting & ceramics; film; exhibition of drawings.
T: Grainne Rafferty 041 983 3946

Public Libraries

Louth County Library
Roden Pl., Dundalk
Bealtaine Table Quiz.
T: 042 935 3190

Mayo
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Áras Inis Gluaire
Civic Centre, Belmullet
'Bóithre na Smaointe', photos, home movies & video of Erris people, with recollections; music, storytelling, poetry, drama & cinema.
T: Ian McAndrew 097 81 079

Linenhall Arts Centre
Castlebar
Creative writing; drama workshops; film; gallery tour & workshop with a difference! Booking essential.
T: Orla Henihan 094 902 3733

Mayo County Council Arts Office
Áras an Chontae, Castlebar
Workshops in all art forms plus recitals / performances. International residency with John Fox & Sue Gill of Dead Good Guides with Mayo Artsquad. Projects with ARA groups in Balla, Foxford, Newport & Kiltimagh include visual arts, drama & music. Workshops for all other ARAs.
T: Anne McCarthy 094 902 4444

National Museum of Ireland – Country Life
Turlough Park House, Castlebar
Tour & workshop on wild flowers; 'The Arrival of Summer', watercolours & oils workshops. Booking essential.
T: Bookings 094 903 1751

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Age Action West
Graffy, Ballina
'Remembering Together' reminiscence in 3 care settings. Music & céilí; storytelling.
T: James Reddiough 087 207 3262

Balla Active Age Group
Balla, Castlebar
Art exhibition of members' work in the Resource Centre.
T: Mamie Walsh 094 936 5091

East Mayo LDP / IRD Kiltimagh
IRD Kiltimagh, Enterprise Hse., Aiden St.

'Rural Reminiscence' arts workshops; trip to Museum of Country Life; events throughout May.

T: Ann Marie McGing / Ann Marie Carroll 094 938 1494

The Tuesday Club, Kiltimagh
Lr. Aiden St.

Visual art, music & creative writing workshops.

T: Mary V Walsh / Kathleen Campbell 094 938 167 / 093 81 458

Westport Active Retirement Association
'Dance & Demo', two-hand dancing with demo & lessons for all.

T: Mary McCombs 098 28 913

Care Centres

Dalton Nursing Unit
Claremorris

Exhibition of residents' artwork. Music, dancing & singing.

Fr Peyton Memorial Centre
Attymass, Ballina

Music & song.

T: 096 45 374

St Colman's Care Centre
Keel, Achill Island

Set dancing; strawboys; interactive music & song.

T: Alice 098 43 248 / 087 263 7915

St John's Rest & Day Care Centre
Knock Shrine

Music, song & dance; storytelling; outing to Salthill.

T: Sr Catherine Mac Sweeney 094 938 8100 ext 136

Meath

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Meath County Council Arts Office
Ashbourne Civic Offices, 1-2 Killegland Sq.,

A project leading up to the production and performance of 'Melody' at The Venue; 'Timeless Truths', involving artist Robert Ballagh (p.21).

T: Mary Carty / Alice Ring 01 835 8014

Public Libraries

Meath County Council Library Service
Railway St., Navan

Music appreciation workshops; 'Publish and be in Demand', a talk based on recently published memoirs; crochet for beginners (booking essential); 'Brighten Up Your Garden'.

T: Eve Morrisson 046 902 1134

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Gibstown Active Retirement Group
Navan

Exhibition of art & craft.

T: 046 905 4557

Third Age Foundation, Summerhill Active Retirement Group
Third Age Centre, Summerhill

Drama workshops; recording memories on CD; movement to music; choir performance; 'Memories are Made of This' art project & exhibition; Bealtaine Concert.

T: Mary Nally 046 955 7766

Monaghan

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

ICA Art Group
Clones

Art & craft display.

T: 047 51454

Latton Social Services & Dev Ltd – 'Thursday Club'
Resource Centre, Latton P.O.

Storytelling, music & dance.

T: Patrick Ruxton 087 223 6698

Positive Age Monaghan
2 visual arts exhibitions in Cavan & Monaghan.

T: Maisie Smith 049 436 0433

Care Centres

Drumkill Day Care Centre
Threemilehouse, Monaghan

Arts & crafts display.

T: Mae Murphy 042 974 4824

Offaly

Film (p. 18)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Oxmantown Hall
Poetry reading; movement to music classes & Tea Dance.
T: Box Office
057 912 2911

Offaly County Council Arts Office
Áras an Chontae, Charleville Rd., Tullamore
A combined printed programme of events from Arts Office, Libraries, Local Dev. Agencies & Community Groups is available. Offaly Bealtaine opens with an 'Anam Beo Arts in Health' exhibition.
T: 057 935 7400

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Mount Bolus Active Age
Árd Aoibhinn
An evening of music, song, dancing & storytelling in the Community Hall; an art workshop in Árd Aoibhinn.
T: Kathleen McKane / Sr Mary O'Connor
057 935 4932 /
057 935 4867

Tullamore Active Retirement Association
Exhibition of watercolours & acrylics in Tullamore Credit Union; dance, song, music & recitation.
T: 057 932 2076

Care Centres

Birr Community Nursing Unit
Sandymount
A celebration of the lives of residents, staff & Day Care community, with memories, stories, songs & recitations.
T: 057 912 3231

Roscommon

Film (p. 18)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

King House Interpretive Gallery and Museum
Main St., Boyle
Film.
T: Susan Gadsby
071 966 3242

Roscommon Arts Centre
Circular Rd.
Theatre, cinema; dance classes; 'Melody' a comedy; 'The Telephone Exchange', a drama.
T: Averyl Dooher
090 662 5824

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Age Action West
Reminiscence in Oak Grove Day Centre, Ballaghdereen; writing & reminiscence in Elphin Day Care Centre; reminiscence & music in Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon.
T: James Reddiough
087 207 3262

Boyle Active Age
c/o Tawnytaskin, Boyle
'Variety Show' singing, dancing, music, storytelling.
T: Margaret O'Mahoney
087 209 5219

Castlerea Active Retirement Association
St Patrick St.
Evening of music & dance.
T: Ann McDonagh
094 962 2956

St Asicus Centre
St Ronan's Hall, Keadue, Boyle
Musical session.
T: Kathleen Lavin
071 964 7279

Sligo

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Sligo Arts Service, Sligo County Council
Market Yard, Sligo
Exhibitions, music, dance, readings, radio conversation, book launches, intergenerational & intercultural events. The Artist in Residence project in 3 Care Units, where both clients & artists will create artworks. All work created will be exhibited in galleries. Magic Me (see p. 8) in Ballymote.
T: Arts Dept 071 911 1980

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Ballymote Active Retirement Association
Pastoral Centre
Creating a tapestry. Plus intergenerational project on the tapestry theme.
T: 071 918 3124

The Catalysts
The Catacombs, The Mall
Exhibition of art & craft; readings from creative writing; drumming workshop.
T: Ruth Galbraith
071 914 6506

Easky – Dromore West Active Age Group
Music, dancing, arts display.
T: 096 47 987

HSE N/W Sligo, Retired Persons
'St Olivers', Knappaghmore, Strandhill Rd.
Variety Show.
T: Una Boyle
071 916 0353

MCR Senior Citizens Group
Mailcoach Road, Sligo
'New Energy', a display of pottery & art.
T: Mary Lynch
071 914 6512

Monday Club - Gleann Active Retirement
Gleann Community Centre, Drumnacool
Dance day with song. Local clubs invited.
T: Sadie Gill 071 916 5020

Post Polio Support Group
Ballinamona, Lough Gill
'Art exhibition' celebrating our creativity, at Primary Care Centre, Barrack St., Sligo.
T: Paula Lahiff
071 916 4791

Skreen & Dromard Community Care
Community Centre, Dromard
Celebration with music, song, dance.
T: Mary McCarthy
071 916 6846

Sligo & District Active Retirement Association
c/o 10 O'Connell St., Sligo
Art & craft display; writers reading from their work; drama 'A Walk in Spring'.
T: Margaret McBrien
071 917 1658

Sligo Leader Partnership Company
Development Cntr., Cleveragh Rd.
'The Old Sligo School Room', Northside Community Centre intergenerational project illustrating schooldays, featuring photographs, stories & video footage.
T: Sarah Wetherald
071 914 1138 /
071 914 1155

Tubbercurry Active Retirement Association
Community Health Centre, Teeling St.
Photographic & watercolour exhibition; reminicences; visit to cinema & museum.
T: Clare Duffy
071 918 5699

'Young at Heart' ARI, Cliffoney
Exhibition of work & tea dance at Parish Hall.
T: Mary Gillen
071 916 3716 /
Mary Gillespie
071 916 6172

Care Centres

Community Nursing Unit, Ballymote
Open Day of music, song, dance, art work.
T: Bridie Marren
071 918 3195

Day Centre for the Elderly, Tubbercurry
Crafts exhibition, storytelling & poetry reading, visit to museum.
T: Sr Catherine
071 918 5966

Nazareth House
Church Hill, Sligo
Open Day to launch Artist in Residence exhibition; day of music & dance.
T: Claire Reynolds

Tipperary
Film (p. 18)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

The Source Arts Centre
Cathedral St., Thurles
Dance project with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (p.11).
T: Claudia Woolgar
0504 90 340

Tipperary County Council Arts Services, North and South
Tipp North & South share their Bealtaine programme across the whole county.
T: Melanie Scott (North) 067 44 852 / Sally O'Leary (South) 052 34 565

Public Libraries

Tipperary County Library
Castle Ave., Thurles
'I have always wanted to try...' covering information sessions on book clubs, digital photography & more.
T: Marie 052 24 545

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Cloughjordan Active Retirement Association
Lr. Main St.
Music, song, poetry & dance, plus film (courtesy Cloughjordan Cine Club).
T: Helen Deane
0505 42 889

St Ruadhan's Active Retirement Association
Lorrha
Art exhibition & launch of booklet of stories & poems at social evening.
T: Nancy White
090 974 7922

Tipperary Active Retirement Association
Tipperary Community Centre, St Michael's St.
Arts & crafts display; dancing; film; poetry reading, all in Tipperary Excel.
T: Margaret Coffey
062 33 356

Care Centres

Cappawhite Day Care Centre
Variety show with storytelling, poetry, music, song & dancing.
T: Mary Buckley
087 205 9888 /
062 75 071

Waterford
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Arts Office, Waterford County Council
Civic Offices, Dungarvan
Films. In assoc. with Dolmen Active Retirement Group, we are sponsoring art workshops for members, including an exhibition.
T: Margaret Organ
058 41 416

Portlaw Heritage Group
Malcomson Square, Portlaw
A night of entertainment & the arts in Portlaw Heritage Centre.
T: Seán O'Brien
087 624 4319

Waterford Healing Arts Trust
Waterford Regional Hospital, Dunmore Rd.
Our 'Healing Sounds' music programme presents 'Reminiscence through Song' at St Patrick's Hospital & Waterford Regional Hospital.
T: Siobhán McLaughlin
051 842 664

Waterford Museum of Treasures, Waterford City
The Granary, Merchants Quay
Exhibition on Luke Wadding OFM.
T: Rosemary Ryan
051 304 500

Public Libraries

Waterford City Council Library Service
Lady Lane; Ardkeen Stores; Paddy Brown's Road
Taster sessions in music, gardening, local history; four-week art workshop; crossword competition; exhibitions; tea dance & more. All free!
T: Sinead O'Higgins (Central) 051 849 975
Sinead Cummins (Ardkeen & Brown's Road) 051 849 755

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Dolmen ARA
c/o 27 Ashe Rd., Kingsmeadow, Waterford
Art exhibition, crafts, photography, poetry, music and more. Venue: Fr Rufus Halley Hall.
T: 051 370 885

Care Centres

Care Choice Dungarvan
The Burgery
Singing, dancing & acting.
T: Clodagh Whelan
058 43 555

Westmeath
Film (p. 18)

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

1428 Active Retirement Club
46 Dominick St., Mullingar
Events include: creative writing leading to a Storytelling Day Festival; music & dance; day trips, nature walks; art exhibition.
T: Debbie Daly
044 938 4290

An Grianán Active Age Group
Mount Temple, Athlone
Trips to art exhibition & local library; intergenerational discussion on schooldays.
T: Vera Hynes
090 648 2142

Cara Phort Family Resource Centre
Harbour St., Ballynacargy
'No Barriers', four days of activities to suit everyone.
T: Maria Quinn
044 937 3060

Clonmellon ICA
Clonmellon Hall
'Poetry and Expression: We have it all', readings, voice & visual expressions using our 'wardrobe' to illuminate hidden talent.
T: Olive Murphy / Teresa Doyle
046 943 3242

St Peter's Active Retirement
St Peter's Centre, Athlone
Song & dance; drama.
T: 090 649 4748

Care Centres

Loughloe House and Day Care Centre
Abbey Rd., Athlone
Music, art & story by way of reminiscence.
T: Julie Molloy
086 344 2640

St Vincent's Care Centre
Athlone
Intergenerational week of music, song & stories, art exhibition.
T: Tessa Guinan
087 919 3734 or
090 647 5301

Wexford
Film (p. 18)
Drawing (p. 15)

Public Libraries

Wexford County Council Public Library Service
Enniscorthy Public Library
Lymington Rd.
Creative writing.
T: Yvonne Smith
053 917 6565

New Ross Library
Barrack Ln.
Creative writing workshop.
T: Joan Lambert
051 421 877

Wexford Public Library Service
McCawleys Car Park, Wexford
Workshop on Seamus Heaney's poem 'Station Island'; lecture for The Thursday Club and more.
T: 053 912 1637

Wexford Public Library Service
Unit 6A, Ardcavan Business Park, Wexford
'Telling Tales', primary school children invite grandparents / older relatives to share tales; storytellers visit St Brigid's Day Care Centre, Wexford, St John's Hospital, Enniscorthy & 'The Young at Heart Club' in Wexford.
T: Yvonne Smith
053 917 6565

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

55+ Club, Crossabeg
Line dancing, storytelling, music, singing, art & crafts, reading & more.
T: Mary Quinn
053 912 8892 /
087 273 7233

Gorey Active Retirement Association
'Wisdom Comes With Age', learn new skills & rekindle old ones; flower arranging; needlecraft; play (our own), storytelling, gardening & pottery.
T: George Harmon
053 938 3918

Kilrane-Rosslare Active Retirement Group
'SMILE (Sing, Music, Inclusion, Live, Enjoy)' exhibition of art & crafts, ceramics, greeting cards, quilts; an evening of craic & ceoil, music, set dancing, mummers, storytelling, sketches. All at Railway Club, Rosslare Harbour.
T: Christine Naughton
053 913 3126

New Ross Active Retirement Association
Augustinian Hall, Chapel Ln.
Song, music, dance & storytelling.
T: Kathleen Bolger
051 423 642

Poulpeasty Active Retirement
Poulpeasty, Clonroche, Enniscorthy
Dance, storytelling & the best of music.
T: Frances Furlong
053 924 4492

Ramsgrange Active Retirement Association
'Fadó Fadó', storytelling, music, recitations & more.
T: Kathleen Crosbie
051 388 232

Rosslare Active Retirement Association
'The Art of Being Older', art & photography exhibition; 'Celtic Sounds' music, song & dance; tea dance. All at Crosbie/Cedars Hotel.
T: Douglas Bain
053 917 3821 /
087 413 4754

St Fintan's Day Centre
Taghmon
Arts & crafts exhibition, music & dance.
T: May Buttimer
053 913 9198

St Louis Stitchers, South West Wexford CDP
Ramsgrange, New Ross
Needlework Fair: workshops on lace making; afternoon Tea Dance with guests wearing lace; needlework displays.
T: Eleanor Doyle
051 389 418

Care Centres

Castlebridge Day Centre
c/o 12 Beechgrove, Castlebridge
Song, dance, storytelling, arts & crafts display.
T: 087 207 3988

New Ross Day Care Centre Art Group
New Houghton Hospital
Exhibition of Art Group work in New Ross Library.
T: Jules Michael
059 972 2522

St Aidan's Day Care Centre
Millands, Gorey
Storytelling, music & dance, art workshop.
T: Ellen Moore
053 942 1092

St Mary's Day Care Centre
Tagoat
Art & crafts; music & drama.
T: Bridget Browne
053 913 2624

Wicklow
Film (p. 18)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

Courthouse Arts Centre and Tinahely Active Retirement Association
With Wicklow County Council, 'Red Shoes' performed by Ena May, with discussion.
T: 0402 38 529

Serendipity Theatre
44 Old Connawood Dr., Connaught Ave., Bray
'Marie-Louise', story with music, performed in Nursing Homes.
T: Hedda Kaphengst
01 272 2580

Wicklow Arts Office
Wicklow County Council, County Buildings
International storyteller, plays ('Red Shoes', 'Afterplay', 'The Matchmaker'), concerts & dance / movement. Launch of a new County Choir for older people.
T: Ann C Nolan
0404 20 155

Active Retirement/ Community Groups

Baltinglass Active Retirement Association
Lathaleere
'Paintings & Makings' exhibition with Baltinglass Hospital & Day Care Centre.
T: Michael Cogan
059 648 1469

Brockagh Resource Centre
Laragh, Glendalough
A host of events for all tastes & abilities. Johnny McEvoy concert; 'The Love-Hungry Farmer' with Des Keogh; treasure hunts, picnics, art classes, ballroom of romance tours, crafts fairs, exhibitions & more.
T: Bernadette Tyrrell
0404 45 600

Wicklow Active Retirement Association
Variety show & art exhibition include sketches, group & individual singing, recitations, storytelling. In Scout Hall, South Qy., Wicklow.
T: Peggy O'Sullivan
0404 67 906

Care Centres

Baltinglass and Blessington Day Care Centres
Baltinglass Hospital, Baltinglass
Art & crafts; Blessington Day Care Centre intergenerational project to produce caricatures of clients themselves, a tapestry & other crafts. Baltinglass Day Care Centre: paintings on theme of spring flowers, handmade quilts , bags & more.
T: Aida Sleator
059 648 1255

Baltinglass District Hospital
'Celebrating Creativity', arts & crafts exhibition; music; flower arranging & art demonstrations.
T: Josie Dooley
059 648 1255

Carnew Community Care & Carnew Day Centre
Dance; storytelling, song & music.
T: Sheila Kirwan
053 942 6510

St Colman's Hospital and Day Centre
Rathdrum
Exhibition 'A Life Less Ordinary – Through Colour', painting & writing.
T: Chyrstal Dowd
0404 60 824

Wicklow District Hospital Day Centre
Glenside Rd., Wicklow
Exhibition 'A Life Less Ordinary – Through Colour', painting & writing.
T: Chyrstal Dowd
0404 60 824

Feast your eyes on visual art

Have a brush with painting

Set the scene for some drama

Stretch to some dance

Spread the word about creative writing

Get your hands dirty with pottery

Chop and change with some collage

Focus on film

Snap up some photography

Dig a little culture

Strike your note with music

Visual Art: Cloak (detail), West Cork Arts Centre/Skibbereen Day Care Centre with artist Marie Brett (photo: Phil Pound) | **Painting:** Members of Ratoath Community Art Group preparing for the Bealtaine Festival (photo: Janet Bolger) | **Drama:** Clare Barrett and Ciaran McMahon in 'Melody' by Deirdre Kinahan (photo: Oranmor Theatre, Glasgow) | **Creative writing:** Workshop, St Anne's Art in Health Project, Sligo | **Dance:** Liz Lerman Dance Exchange Workshop, Bealtaine 2007 (photo: Photocall Ireland) | **Collage:** Detail from Castletownbere Day Centre | **Music:** 'From Hand to Hand' concert, Ballina (photo: Stephen Doyle) | **Culture:** Bealtaine tour at the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology (photo: National Museum of Ireland) | **Photography:** 'Watery Life' - glass model marine jellyfish from the collection at the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History (photo: National Museum of Ireland) | **Film:** Members of Boyle Active Age Group during the making of a short film, On Hallowed Ground, in association with the IFI (photo: Derek Speirs) | **Pottery:** Workshop with Thomas Woollen at Thurles Library (photo: Thurles Library)

Age & Opportunity would like to thank the following people
Dominic Campbell, Bealtaine 2008 Artistic Director
Seamus Cashman, Bulletin Editor
Michael Foley, Bulletin Coordinator

Bealtaine organisers around the country, and in particular those who provided suggestions and information for the Bulletin. The support of each and every event organiser, whatever the scale of their event, is of value beyond measure. We salute you and thank you.

The Age & Opportunity team members who work on Bealtaine – Danielle Byrne, Marianna Cullen, Terry Lehane, Rebecca McLaughlin, Sue Russell, June Welsh and others.

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Ann Davoren, West Cork Arts Centre
Fionnuala Hanrahan, Wexford County Libraries / Library Association
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Biographical Note
Bealtaine Bulletin Editor, Seamus Cashman founded Wolfhound Press in 1974 where he was publisher until 2001. His most recent poetry collection is *That morning will come* (Salmon Poetry, 2007). He works as a publishing consultant, editor and creative writing tutor.

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Back cover:
Martha Wittman, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange
(photo: Lise Metzger)

West Cork Arts Centre's Claymation Project with artists Sheila Kelleher and Andy Reynolds at Skibbereen Day Care Centre (photo: Phil Pound)

'Pink/Orange Dancers' by participant in St Anne's Golden Years Arts Project, Sligo.

'From Hand to Hand' concert Dún Lúiche
(photo: Simon Houston)

Bealtaine is the Irish national arts festival celebrating creativity in older age.

It takes place each May countrywide and involves thousands of participants in events in every art form. Taking its name from the ancient Celtic festival of spring, Bealtaine celebrates renewal, creativity and growth in ageing.

The festival is organised collaboratively by a range of organisations, including national arts institutions, local and regional arts centres, local authority arts officers, public libraries, individuals, VECs, older people's groups, care centres, hospitals and a range of community groups in cities, towns, villages and parishes right around the country.

Bealtaine is coordinated by Age & Opportunity - the Irish national organisation working to promote greater participation by older people in society.

"Let go, let fly, forget.
You've listened long enough. Now strike your note."

Seamus Heaney
From Section XII, Station Island (Faber & Faber Ltd.)

age & opportunity
Challenging attitudes and promoting participation

Dublin City
Baile Átha Cliath

Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

RTÉ

the arts council
an chomhairle ealaíon