



## Worthy Corkonians in Street Art

It's been another busy month for our volunteers at Mad About Cork with plenty of street art and urban gardening projects happening.

Our plan to transform Kyril's Quay with plants and art is in full swing. We've also been busy maintaining our other mini-urban gardens across the city and harvesting crops from our veg garden on the Coal Quay. It was great to have the Lord Mayor Tony Fitzgerald come to one of our meet-ups recently to congratulate the volunteers on their hard work.

As well as all this, we found time to add a few more electrical box paintings to our growing collection. Our third collaboration of the summer with the Cork Samaritans saw us paint another box to help promote their free phone helpline, 116 123. The Samaritans have been helping people through difficult periods in their lives in Cork for 45 years and we're glad to be able to work with them.

Elsewhere, we've added two more street art tributes to a couple of worthy Corkonians, one perhaps more well-known than the other but both equally deserving.

Cillian Murphy has been excelling in his profession for years. His versatility and screen presence have seen him give star turns in films as varied as *Breakfast on Pluto*, *Batman Begins*, and, most recently, the Christopher Nolan blockbuster *Dunkirk*. But it was *Disco Pigs*, produced by Corcadorca Theatre Company in Cork that launched Murphy's career.

Our tribute to Murphy, which can be found on South Mall across from the board walk, features a quote from a spoken verse which he reads on the song *Stages*, by The Frank and Walters - Cork legends in their own right who we've already honoured with a street art piece on Grand Parade.

Our third new box is a special one. With the Cork Folk Festival taking place at the end



of September and to mark 100 years since her birth in Cork city, we felt a tribute to Maggie Barry was needed.

Barry was a folk singer who gained great fame in Ireland and Britain, almost as much for her uncompromising character as for her musical talents. Bob Dylan once called her his favourite folk singer, but when asked about her opinion of Dylan, all Barry said was that he was "awfully smelly".

In the 50's she appeared live on BBC television singing the ballad *She Moved Through the Fair* on *Song Hunters*, a show produced by David Attenborough. Her banjo had been left badly out of tune by the heat of the studio lights but Attenborough, a collector of folk music from across the world, was still impressed enough to

describe her as one of the most extraordinary musicians he's heard.

As well as the folk festival in Cork this month, Culture Night also takes place on 22 Sept. For our part, we'll be running history tours of North Main St on the night and also painting another electrical box to mark an event in the 15th century that has shaped Cork culture ever since. More details will be available on our social media.

Along with this project we'll also be working on lots of other urban gardening and street art projects in the coming months. Keep up to date with our work @MadAboutCork on Facebook, twitter and Instagram, and to get involved email [info@madaboutcork](mailto:info@madaboutcork).

