



COVERING THE CITY WITH COLOUR

It's turning out to be an awesome summer in the city. So many great events have been taking place showing the best that Cork has to offer – the Midsummer Festival programme, Cork's Long Table, the Harbour Festival, the Shandon Street Fest, the Lee Swim, Soul in the City... we could go on and on! All these events have been taking place during one the hottest and most glorious summers in the last five decades.

It really has been a scorcher. Record temperatures during the recent heatwave kept us on our toes over the last few weeks. It was a real challenge getting everything watered at our guerrilla gardens around town, but, as always, our volunteers had all hands on deck. At the Coal Quay garden, the literal fruits of our labour are coming through. The first of the blackcurrants in our fruit plot have appeared, as have the first tomatoes in the green house. There are lots more edibles coming too – kale, beetroot, onions, French beans and gooseberries to name just some. We're well on our course to take another good crop from a site that was previously overgrown and littered with rubbish and rubble only 18 months ago.

Recently, we've also been working on transforming an old wall on Leitrim St. The wall, which is all that's left of a building that was knocked down previously, has been an unsightly part of the city for a few years now, but thanks to help of 60 staff from Blizzard Entertainment, we've added some colourful designs and images. Already we've painted a portrait of an iconic Cork 'shawlie', as well as Conor and Jock of The Young Offenders. More representations of Cork's culture and history will be added soon. We were also glad to help Alliance de Francaise Cork recently who organised for the French street artist DACO to come to Cork and paint a mural on Kyril's Quay.

We've managed to paint another electrical box this month as well. With the World Cup taking place in Russia, we felt it was time we paid tribute to the late Bill O'Herlihy, especially given the fact that it's the first World Cup without the legendary Corkman presenting all the action and debate on our TVs. We chose the time when Bill led us through coverage of one of the greatest moments in Irish football history as the theme – beating Romania on penalties at Italia 90. Unable to contain his delight, Bill's reaction captured the mood of the nation and became as iconic as the match itself. The painting can be found on Liberty St.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be continuing to do lots of urban gardening and hopefully some more art projects. As always the work of the volunteers and people donating materials will be a huge help and is vital to us achieving our goals of covering the city with plants and colour. We encourage anybody who can help out to get in touch at madaboutcork.com

We'll leave it there so!



Keep up to date with our work @MadAboutCork on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and to get involved email info@madaboutcork.com