

MAD ABOUT CORK



Buzzing with change

It's spring and Cork city is buzzing with change. Despite what seemed like a never-ending winter, our gardens across town have recently been transforming before our eyes. Daffodils and primroses are in bloom, leaves are budding on our trees and we've begun planting a new crop at the Coal Quay veg garden, starting with potatoes, rocket, radish, and hops.

Our aim for planting more native Irish wildflowers this year is also in full swing. Our volunteers have added lots to Kyril's Quay already and are currently building wooden planters for a new wildflower garden we're installing at the Coal Quay garden. Some of the plants we've put in include borage, bluebells, willowherb, daisy, and dog violet. As well as beautifying the city, our hope is that these will aid to the biodiversity, giving the bees, butterflies, and other insects a chance to proliferate in the city centre.

In keeping with our love of plants, we were thrilled to add Bantry woman and pioneering Irish botanist Ellen Hutchins to our electrical box street art collection recently. Hutchins died at 29 in 1815, but made a great contribution to the field of botany by identifying, collecting, and even illustrating thousands of plant specimens. Her tribute can be found on Clontarf St. We finally got around to painting Rory Gallagher too. The guitar virtuoso had been on our wishlist for some time but now has his own Mad About Cork tribute on Grand Parade.

In the coming weeks and months, with some great designs ready to go, we hope to get some more electrical boxes painted up. Our weekly meet-ups will continue too and we'll be working to help our gardens flourish as we continue towards our goal of making Cork City greener. Anyone interested in volunteering, donating gardening materials, or funding an electrical box can get in touch at info@madaboutcork.

Elsewhere in Cork City, bigger changes are happening. Large new developments in the city centre are already under way. The new



Maldrion Hotel on South Mall is due to open in December, while the old tax office building on Sullivan's Quay and Camden Palace have been picked apart and razed to the ground to make way for another hotel and office block respectively.

Also, later this year, work is expected to begin on the redevelopment of Morrison's Island as part of the overall flood defense scheme for the city. The Save Cork City group continue to campaign strongly against the OPW's plan to rely on raised quay walls along the Lee to protect the city from flooding. With so much change coming for Cork it's vital that we all make ourselves aware of these changes and engage with the process. With that in mind, Mad About Cork would strongly encourage everyone to listen to the groups objections to the OPW's scheme and to look at their alternative plans to protect Cork from flooding, namely with a combination of a tidal barrier and a series of upstream flood measures. (more info at savecorkcity.org)



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