

MAD ABOUT CORK



AIDING THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE CITY

It's the busy season and the Mad About Cork volunteers have been hard at work over the last month. Our plant boxes on North Gate Bridge have been replanted and should give a colourful summer display of flowers in the coming weeks. Coleman's Lane has also been given a makeover with new wooden flower boxes built from upcycled pallet wood added to the historic lane. The plant boxes on the wharf on Georges Quay have also been given some TLC and are looking great. The vegetable crop at the Coal Quay garden, our pride and joy, continues to receive much of our attention. Elsewhere, our gorgeous pink lupins have been turning many heads since they came into bloom on Shandon Bridge, while our other plants there and across the road on Kyril's Quay are also full of colour.

We managed to keep our two-prong attack on undervalued urban spaces going this month by doing some street art pieces, as well as working on our guerrilla gardening projects. Our volunteers painted some decorative designs on several electrical boxes on Grattan St and on Parnell Place. We also took part in a collaborative project in Ballinlough with the pupils of Our Lady of Lourdes National School. The kids were asked to design a box in the style of Mad About Cork with two being selected for us to paint in the locality. We'd like to thank

the talented kids who took part and also Cllr. Kieran MacCarthy who funded and organised the project.

Once again, the reason we've been able to get so much done is due to the efforts of all our volunteers, regulars and new. We've been overwhelmed with the numbers of people wanting to get involved over the last few weeks and were delighted to see a record turnout at one of our Wednesday evening meet-ups recently. At this time of the year our plants really do need a lot of watering, and with our guerrilla gardens being scattered all over the city, having so many hands on deck is vital.

Shout out too to the people and businesses that got in touch after we put a call out on social media for help getting access to water to fill our cans. For the past few years, we've been using a tap in the front garden of a kind local named Noel near Coleman's Lane, but it will make life a little easier for us that we can now get water closer to our gardens on the other side of the city thanks to numerous kind offers.

So, overall, things are going pretty well and while the going is good, we hope to build a raft of new wooden flower boxes to fill with native plants and trees in the coming weeks. These will be added to the Shandon Bridge and North Gate Bridge and will help us in our aim of aiding the biodiversity of the city this year.



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