

## MAD ABOUT CORK



# COMING TO FRUITION

– Fruit and veg at Portney's Lane

It's been a great few weeks for street art and urban gardening in Cork. It's been thrilling watching our flowers begin to bloom across town at several of our project sites. The hard work of the volunteers earlier in the year is really starting to show on Douglas St, George's Quay and Patrick's Quay with lots of flowers in bloom. We've painted another electricity box on Merchants Quay in collaboration with the Cork Samaritans, our second to date, and we've welcomed more volunteers than ever to the cause.

The biggest project completed however has been the new fruit and veg garden, sponsored by GIY Ireland and Energia's 'Get Ireland Growing' campaign, built on a derelict site on Portney's Lane near the Coal Quay. This took a mammoth effort from our volunteers but it has been worth it to see the formerly empty space transformed.

The site has been vacant for about five years and before that it was used as a makeshift car park - hardly the best use of land for such a central location in the city but we're glad to have the chance to do more with it. Our aims are threefold with this project. We want to promote growing your own food in the city, bring the community together to work on the project and to also highlight what can be done with this and other undervalued spaces like it in urban areas.

Having cleared out over 15 bags of rubble, weeds, and rubbish from the vacant site, we set about laying down a new part-gravel part-grass surface and installing wooden planter beds. This

involved bringing in deliveries of three tonnes of gravel, three tonnes of top soil, and over 300 metres of timber.

When the most laborious work was complete, it was time to start filling up the newly built planters. Ten of these plant beds are now home to potatoes, cabbages, sprouts, onions, strawberries, and much more. Luckily, our calculations when buying our supplies were accurate and we had enough timber and soil left over to create a new herb garden too.

Over 40 people have helped at various stages of this project and it's not finished yet. Over the summer months we'll be tending to the garden regularly and, owing to the fact that so many people have come on board to help us, we are planning to add plants to more parts of the city as well.

Though we have already created a mini garden on Abbey St, near Douglas St, our hope is to add even more greenery and colour to this area. We have one spot earmarked on Douglas St as a new potential urban garden and we are also looking at other ways of adding flowers to the street. These could be window boxes, hanging baskets from light poles or more wooden planters on the footpaths.

As always anybody looking to get involved, either as a volunteer or as a sponsor, can get in touch through [madaboutcork.com](http://madaboutcork.com).



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).