

Kerry Social Farming Newsletter



12th Edition May 2021

We're heading into summer, even if the weather doesn't seem to be keeping up! We're delighted that some more of our host farms are resuming, with all safety measures in place. As restrictions ease and vaccinations continue, we are hopeful of having some in-person events over the coming months. In the meantime, you can catch up on some of our news here and on our social media on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KerrySocialFarming/> and Twitter @KerrySocialFarm.

UCC Certificate in Practice Support in Social Farming

Well done to students on UCC Certificate in Practice Support in Social Farming Course who have just completed their studies. This year's course was entirely online so it was quite an achievement for all those taking part. No doubt they are looking forward to meeting up for a proper class get together, as soon as circumstances allow. Many thanks to Belinda Gascoigne (Skellig CRI/ UCC) and Course Director Dr. Joan Cronin for all their hard work in making the course a reality, despite the challenges during this academic year. We wish Joan the very best as she moves on to pastures new. No doubt she will continue to be a great friend to Kerry Social Farming in the future.

Enrolment is now open for September 2021 so if you or anyone you know are interested in social farming training, please let them know. We're sure that any of our host farmers who have completed the course over the past 2 years will be delighted to share their experiences. You can also get more details on the UCC Adult and Continuing Education website <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-cpsf/>



A snapshot of some of the students and their online learning experience

Department of Agriculture and Food – Funding for social farming

Kerry Social Farming submitted its tender for the renewal of our funding to the Department earlier this month, in advance of the May 10th deadline. We will keep you updated on our progress.

On your bike for the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle 2021!

The Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle is going ahead this year but in a different format. Instead of the one day event that you may be familiar with, you now have a month from 3rd June to 3rd of July to complete your 170Km in your own way! More details about this and registration are available on their website www.ringofkerrycycle.ie

Among the beneficiaries from this year's cycle are two of our project partners in Kerry Social Farming, Cúnamh Iveragh and Down Syndrome Kerry. If you're considering taking to the roads in June, you might like to support them. Read more about them and all the other beneficiaries here <https://www.ringofkerrycycle.ie/our-charities/>

Host Farmer meetings

We had two successful host farmer meetings recently via Zoom on April 27th and May 5th. Thanks to all who attended. It was great to see both new and familiar faces and be able to bring you up to date on what's been happening in social farming and our plans for the coming months. While we are glad to keep in touch, albeit remotely, we are hopeful of being able to meet in person in the near future. Thanks to Rena, Dave, Joe and Evelyn for facilitating those meetings.

Welcome Leagh Farm, new host farm in Ballyduff



Leagh Farm

A family run small scale chemical free farm. Growing leafy greens, salad vegetables and some fruit t

A big Hello and thank you to Billy Joe our host farmer and Patrick our participant at Leagh Farm in Ballyduff. Billy Joe has just started social farming this April and has also just completed the certificate in practice support in social farming course from UCC.

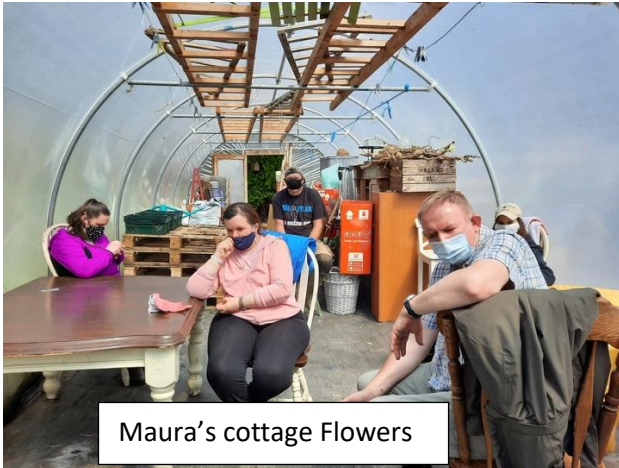
Patrick attends Leah farm once a week from SJOG Listowel and he helps Billy Joe with her gardening and farm work. Billy Jo grows in tunnels and large outdoor vegetable gardens and also and also taking care of the many chickens and the new piglets on the farm.



Out and about this May

April showers bring May flowers and the biggest return to Kerry social farming we've had this year. Mostly due to the relaxing of restrictions on outdoor activities and the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccinations. It's been great seeing everybody out and about enjoying the fine weather and returning to social farming and a most welcome return. We look forward to seeing many of our host farmers and participants return over the coming weeks and months.

A BIG WELCOME BACK TO HOST FARMER AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE RECENT MONTHS

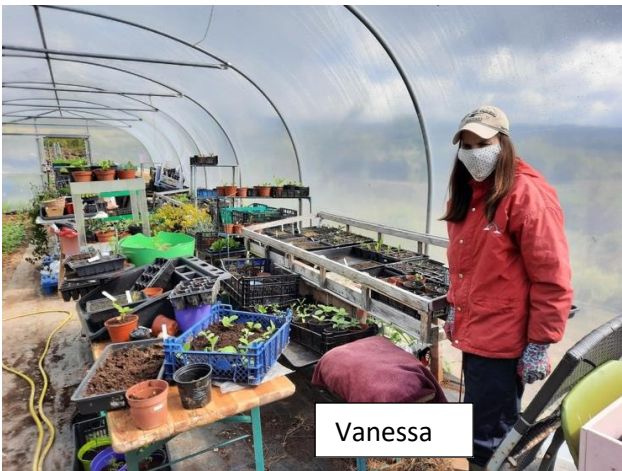




Timmy



Bronagh



Vanessa



Welcome back Antonette



Janet



Gerald



Stephen and Seamus

Re-opening

Best of luck to the many businesses and venues across the county who are reopening over the coming weeks. Spending locally helps keep money in our local towns and villages and supports jobs for our families, neighbours and friends. We are blessed with a beautiful county, with lots of new places to visit and enjoy. So be sure to get out and about when you can. Stay safe and keep it local in 2021!

We welcome your input into this newsletter, if you would like to write or share something please get in touch with us; Rena, renablake@newkd.ie Evelyn, eoconnell@skdp.net and Julie jbrosnan@skdp.net.

If you've changed your contact details recently for example, your email or postal address, please let us know so we can make sure the Newsletter gets to you each month. If you know of someone else who'd like to get a copy by post or email, just let us know the details.



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