



Kerry Social Farming Newsletter

Issue 6 November 2020

Welcome to another issue of our Newsletter. We hope that you're all keeping safe and well as we come towards the end of a very different year for social farming. The days are getting shorter and the evenings drawing in, but the seasons change quickly and soon we will be looking forward with hope towards better and brighter times. We hope to have 1 more newsletter prior to Christmas so if you'd like to send us in a picture or let us know how you're getting on, please get in touch.

Breda O Sullivan, social farming in Glencar; "Breda's Shed"

I received really exciting news from Breda and Evelyn recently. An outdoor shed will be renovated for me to use over the winter months to help with social distancing. Already a cement floor is laid. I am looking forward to painting the inside when the roof is on and with Breda's help I will make it really cosy. Here you see the before picture. I will keep you posted with my progress.



One of the lovely cows you will spot in Glencar.

Some of the beautiful wildflowers in Glencar.....though not quite as pretty as the flowers in Breeda's garden!!!



It's all about SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEAR YOUR MASK!! Stay safe!

Welcome to our newest host farmers, participants and job coaches to Kerry Social Farming

The newest additions to our host farming team are Mike O Shea, Thomas and Claire O Connor and Joan Brosnan. We welcome you all to the social farming team in Kerry and thank you for providing social farming opportunities to Gerald O Sullivan, Maurice Moriarty, Martin O Donoghue and Martin Murphy.

A big thank you also to job coaches; Sean Houlihan (KPFA), Geraldine O Mahoney (SJOG) and Sean Hanley (SJOG) for their ongoing support to participants and KSF in making this happen.

The Winter Farming Supplement in the Kerryman on the 11th November featured two of these new farms. Coincidentally both of these farms featured in the Kerryman also gained media coverage during November.

Arising from the Kerryman feature, Mike O'Se , Canuig, Mastergeehy was interviewed about social farming on Raidio na Gaeltachta's Saol ó Dheas programme, on Friday 13th November.



See link to podcast here: <https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/rnag/11251536>

Prior to their involvement in social farming, Thomas and Claire O'Connor, Manna Organic Farm were interviewed for RTE's 'Ear to the Ground' programme and this was broadcast on Thursday November 5th on RTE One. See link below to episode which is available on RTE player.

<https://www.rte.ie/player/series/ear-to-the-ground/SI0000000488?epguid=IP000066535>



Mike, Gerald and Sean pictured above

Thomas, Maurice, Martin and Geraldine
pictured to the left

Castleisland Community Garden with Martin Murphy & Joan Brosnan

The Community Garden in Castleisland is a large organic garden on a half-acre site beside the mart. There are 4 polytunnels and KSF funded a number of raised beds. There are also a lot of fruit, berry and apple trees. Normally it runs training programmes and has very active local gardeners involved. Social Farming was on hold for a while and just resumed with Martin in October. Martin goes every Thursday from SJOG which is just across the road. The community garden has a new host farmer, Joan Brosnan.

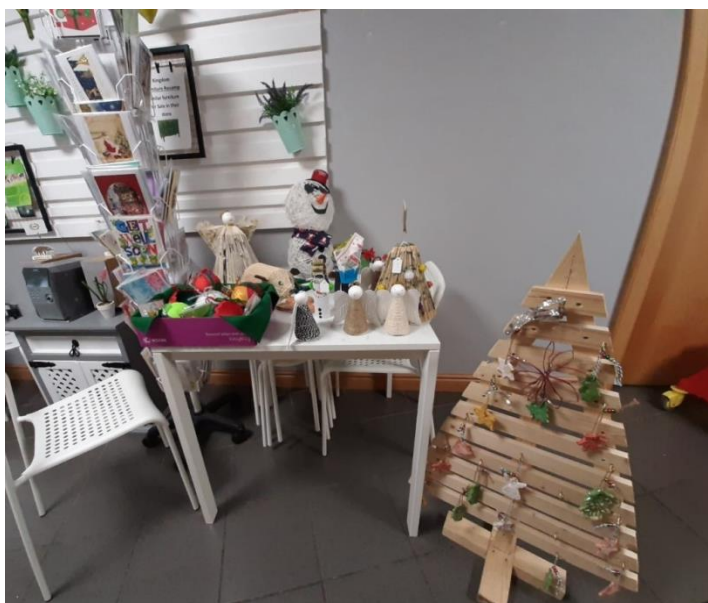


Martin working hard above and with Joan working at the tunnel

We would like to acknowledge and thank Willie Reidy for his work in social farming with Martin in the community garden previously and we wish Willie all the best with his future endeavours.

Gift Idea from SJOG

Here are some ideas for Christmas gifts which were made by St. John of Gods centre in Castleisland. They are for sale in the centre at Castleisland.



Introducing the social farming group from Kerry Parents and Friends Killarney - Job Coach Batt Healy

It is wonderful to be back social farming again after a 15-month period due to the Covid pandemic and personal illness. Upon arriving on the first day to Hazel Fort farm, Beaufort I met up with our host farmer George Kelly and farm participant's Claire Spillane, Stephen Brosnan and Brendan O Sullivan, it was amazing to see how quickly the participants resumed their tasks on the farm, full of eagerness and renewed energy. As a job coach it assured me of the positive aspects to social farming.



Having recently graduated through UCC and obtaining a certificate in Practice Support and social farming, I believe this certificate covers so many of the requirements and guidelines promoted by the mission statement by Kerry Parents and Friends and New Directions.

The participants are delighted with being able to connect again with their peers in an environment which is safe and easy to comply with Covid regulations and their changes. This is also very reassuring for the participant's families. During the initial return we had to navigate the changes and requirements issued by NPHET, and are at this stage very comfortable with the environment and facility's we are working with.

I would also like at this point to wish Claire Vinten job coach who recently retired a happy and fun filled retirement, and introduce our new job coach Eileen O Connell who recently joined the team. Eileen comes with many years of experience working within Kerry Parents and Friends Association, and has a great rapport with all the participants signed up to Kerry Social Farming. Eileen spent her first morning on Hazel Fort farm and was extremely impressed with the confidence and joy of the social farming participants as they carried out their duties. As 2020 comes to a close, we look forward to the coming year with renewed enthusiasm and are extremely grateful that we have had the opportunity to return to social farming and restore some form of normality to all those involved.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year, Batt Healy



Graduation from UCC Certificate in Practice Support in Social farming



Congratulations to Batt Healy, Eamon Horgan, George Kelly, Willie Reidy, John O'Shea, Patricia Kelliher, Helen O'Mahony, Anthony Kelliher, Mary O'Neill McDonnell, Christy McDonnell, Rena Blake, Breeda O'Sullivan and Maura Sheehy who graduated from UCC on 24th of November. Well done to them and thank you to all who worked so hard to make this innovative course a reality.



Pictured with their certificates; Breeda O Sullivan, Batt Healy, Maura Sheehy, Rena Blake

If you'd like to write or share something in our Newsletter, you can contact our facilitators Rena, renablake@newkd.ie Evelyn, eoconnell@skdp.net and Julie our administrator jbrosnan@skdp.net.

Remember if you have recently changed your contact details, maybe you have a new phone number or email address, or you may have moved house, don't forget to let us know so that we can stay in touch.

Visit our website www.kerrysocialfarming.ie, follow us on Twitter @KerrySocialFarm or find us on Facebook!



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine