



New Faces

Over thirty new holders take up allotment duties in recent weeks! Welcome to you all, hope you enjoy the many benefits of growing, harvesting & socialising. Why not join the South Dublin County Allotment Association, get in touch on southdublinallotments@gmail.com



March 10th. 2018 Friarstown Allotment Site, singer/songwriter George Higgs pictured with guitar.

Thanks to Pat O'Rourke who sent these photos from the "Welcome to the New Season Cuppa Event" where allotment holders, singers & visitors from Southern Regional College-Armagh all participated. Thanks to the Allotment Association for organising the event and also for giving a guided tour to our visitors from the North. They thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

On the same morning in conjunction with Rua Red, the first in a series of five work-songs for South Dublin County, called 'First Earlies' was inspired by observations, sound experiments and conversations between artist Fiona Dowling and plot-owner Catherine Cunningham at Friarstown Allotments. Songsters who participated gave a nod to "Meithel", the traditional getting together to assist in a combined activity, in this case kicking off the new season on Catherine's plot on Path 3. It was a cold, cold day but happy faces, shared warmed drinks and camaraderie at the launch of the new season won out. It appears to have been a successful morning despite the inclement weather. For those of you interested in seeing song here are the links to it:

<https://youtu.be/VVe71Qdbdzc> <https://www.facebook.com/lukebrabazonmedia/videos/2083372568566053/>

Bad Weather Spell

The recent drastic weather conditions have left farmers depending on imported fodder, signs forecasted this shortage last year. What effect has the bad weather had on your allotment? Has your shed/polytunnel stood up to the onslaught? Are you finding repairs more numerous?

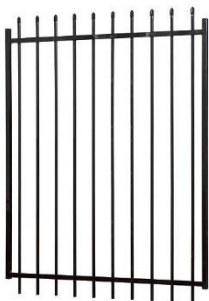
The usual, steady and dependable potatoes, onions and turnips are almost always what people say they are going to plant when I ask. What are you growing yourselves this season?

Inspection



Weekly inspections begin in April this year. Mindful of the slow start experienced by all, the progress or lack of progress will be taken into account.

Remember to keep that gate shut & locked last thing in the evening, especially now as the brighter long days have arrived!



Memory Lane

Here is a photo recently taken of Pilrig Park Allotments in Edinburgh.



My uncle lived in a house on the right in this picture, one of these allotments was his. We regularly stayed here growing up and we all thought it the most fun to get ourselves down to the allotment to nose around and find out how everything was growing.

Many allotment holders have their own gardens but more and more frequently houses are smaller, apartments do not afford you a chance to get stuck into the ground and dig and plant. Allotments are just the answer. Hope you all enjoy yours as much as I know my uncle enjoyed his.

Laugh a Little

- **Why aren't bananas ever lonely?
Because they come in bunches!**

We'll be back in June, '18, send us your news!

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