

the Shankill Tidy Towns tree planters. 3,000 are greening Shankill by their next report. Deliveries arrive on schedule with just a few minor hitches: Cooley, Greystones, Tralee, Annascaul, Mayo, and on it goes. Our next task is, of course, adding all the planting sites' co-ordinates to the UNEP world tree map. Imogen Rabone, Trees on the Land founder and tree-hero, is standing by to run a class in our Zoom office to assist in spatially recording all the new plantings.

Our new intern, Opeyemi Adetifa from TU Dublin (succeeding AB, who continues his first-rate support to us), has been a great asset since he joined us just in time for our busiest planting drive. Opeyemi has a degree in botany and is working on a Master's Degree project with us. His skills of wizardry with Excel are particularly valuable; you can imagine the logistics of delivering quite so many 'Right Trees to the Right Places'. He and our volunteer, Canqi Li of Brown University, join me on a Plant-for-the-Planet webinar where we shake things up by challenging the 80 other collaborating countries to answer the Garda *Jerusalem* Dance Challenge. We include you, dear readers! We take a distanced-dancing break and rope in a few of our tree planters. We include a donkey and a hen at St Anne's City Farm; their horticulture volunteers are planting 50 willow for their goats – with a giant Wicklow rabbit carrying bucket and spade!

DAY 3. Swords Woodland Association launch a wonderful local-tree poster which is presented to its 16 district schools. River Valley Community School is planting 50 silver birch trees with each of their children in this new school, so new it has only two classes of infants. St Colmcille's take in 200 saplings for their large boys' school grounds playing-field perimeter, a lovely way to end the term. The Swords delivery – first instalment – has arrived to their organic farm depot with Fiona, the electric tree-planting augur; some are destined for Malahide Castle. And it is there I have the pleasure of meeting the new GAA President, a fellow teacher, Larry McCarthy. The Fingal County Council Operations Team meet us to select a site. We plant an oak sapling overlooking the pitches within the demesne, a symbol of our new partnership with GAA Green Clubs who have committed to planting 45,000 trees with their communities. I present a heritage apple tree, the first for their new orchard at the GAA farm. In turn, I am gifted with a GAA jersey that I put on straight away! Every good wish to all those who worked on this new collaboration, especially our new Community



Orla Farrell of Easie Treesie/Crann joins GAA president Larry McCarthy on National Tree Week 2021 at the planting of an oak tree at Malahide Castle Demesne pitches to mark the collaboration of GAA Green Clubs in the planting of 45,000 trees as part of the Crann/Easy Treesie project



Helen Batson and Susan Knowles with one of the silver birch, rowan, Scots pine, alder, oak, hazel and cherry trees planted by the staff in a Wellness initiative to mark National Tree Week 2021



Assistant Director of Nursing and Midwifery Shideh Kiafar and Nurse Colette Farrell of the National Maternity Hospital, Holles St, Dublin, celebrate the planting of 1,000 saplings by their team as part of the Crann/Easy Treesie National Tree Week initiative.

Liaison Facilitator, Orchard Project founder and artist Steven Doody, and GAA Green Clubs leader Jimmy McCarthy and their teams.

Later we prepare for RTÉ *Nationwide's* Tree Week series in an interview where our project is being highlighted. What a great opportunity! The crew sets me up under my apple trees; this is quite intimidating because journalist Valerie presented her own gardening programme for years and our back yard has served more as a tree nursery and depot than an ornamental backdrop to our lives in recent times. Fortunately, my husband and supporter-in-chief, Owen, is there doing the spade work for our filmed tree-planting ceremony. Two neighbours are presented with a holly and silver birch to plant and it is good fun recounting our tales of planting which now are almost-nationwide. Straight after the programme our website and email crashes; Marguerite, Crann Administrator, has a similar flood of enquiries; people want to get

planting. We pencil in our new enquiries to our new project lists for consideration for the upcoming season. With our activity, the week is not long enough to get back to them all immediately with comprehensive answers. Finding good homes for our saplings takes a bit of organising. Fortunately, our new website is designed to have several templates which will make answering questions easier.

DAY 4. As part of Tree Week activities we have linked with the National Maternity Hospital to facilitate and support their Wellness initiative 'From Nursery to Nursery'. We distribute 1,100 birch, hawthorn, cherry, silver birch and rowan to the hospital staff for planting in their own homes, supplemented with our *Crann* calendars and *Crann* magazines. There is a great feeling of excitement reported from the hospital with many staff members wandering about like walking trees carrying bundles over their shoulders. This extends our engagements



Above, Stewart Davis, Swords Woodland Association, with Fiona the Electric Augur, and Orla Farrell of Easie Treesie/Crann. Greenprint-Maxol are supporting education for a Clean Energy Transition.

Above right, angelic Gonzaga College students enjoying our Christmas tree planting party



Our week of media action continues as we are asked to share our story by our great collaborators in our tree-planting initiative, the Tree Council of Ireland, as part of their webinar series. CEO Brendan Fitzsimons is MC and Siobhán Quinn, Administrator, manages all the complex logistics swimmingly to run our first 'Film Friday' show. We have been so busy planting we haven't promoted our many 'edu-taining' films; this was our chance. We ran eight films in a row with a little introduction to each. A restful end to the working week. Our new film show joins our previous recordings on the Tree Council website. Check them out!

DAY 6. It's a wrap! We are celebrating with all our communities nationwide as photographs and reports land in of the plantings taking place, from Donegal Town river walk to another riverbank in Ovens, Co Cork, from Sligo's 'Pure Clothing' student project to a Fingal Hedgerow Society, from Maynooth University to Clarinbridge Tidy Towns. We thank everyone who worked under the most challenging of restrictions to make National Tree Week a focus for Covid-safe planting action and especially our many supporters.

High praise is deserved for the communities who were recipients of tree deliveries and managed the planting. Those on our waiting list will be prioritised for our upcoming planting programme for which we have even more ambitious targets: 250,000 saplings to be planted on average over the coming three years to reach our target of planting 1 million by the second 2023 season. Can we do it? Yes we 'Crann'!

And as Tree Week came to a close we looked ahead to our next project, the TEDxCountdown/Crann – Trees for Ireland conference on Earth Day (full report in our next issue). Watch out for our new talks on the Easy Treesie YouTube channel, see our newest tree-planting supporters and sponsor a €10 tree on www.easytreesie.com.

with hospitals from previous years including Clontarf, St Luke's and Dr Steeven's hospitals. With no public events this year we wanted to acknowledge the team at the National Maternity Hospital for their heroic work. Shideh Kiafar, Assistant Director of Nursing and Midwifery, who was instrumental in the organisation of the donation, expressed the hope that the opportunity to plant a tree will act as a physical reminder of the staff's own strength and resilience for having worked through this pandemic.

We also launch our new collaboration with the Museum of Childhood, Ireland. This virtual museum was listed in 2020 as one of the Top 6 Museums in the world in the 'Best International Digital Activity' category (along with Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum) in a recent world ranking. Our Easy Treesie/Crann project works hand-in-glove with the artistic community; they add so much joy to our endeavours. We were thrilled to launch Irish filmmaker Fion Gunn's wonderful, serene film, 'Plant More Trees', and meet a panel of distinguished guests at our Zoom webinar. This was the highlight of their week of tree poetry by their young voices broadcast on Twitter and tree planting with us from Nepal

to Italy to Chicago, to Melbourne, Killarney National Park and Mayo.

DAY 5. Our Project is delighted to be able to now share the news that it is an Awardee of the Rethink Ireland Innovate Together Fund in the category 'Sustainable Ireland'. This fund was set up to support innovative responses to the Covid-19 crisis. It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund, with additional funding from corporate partners which include the Zurich Foundation, Oakfield Trust, Medtronic and Twitter.

This award entitles our project team to participate in the Rethink Ireland Accelerator Programme. Support has been delivered in many strategic areas through this initiative to our project and those of the 19 other awardees. We have been enjoying the contribution of expertise in areas such as goal setting, strategic thinking and online communications which has enabled us to carry out actions such as the preparation of a new re-designed website with Dr Roisin Lyons and her team at DCU School of Business.