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BALLYGARVAN STONECRAFT

**IRISH & LOCALLY MANUFACTURED PAVING
SPRING NEWSLETTER**



How to enhance your outdoor area

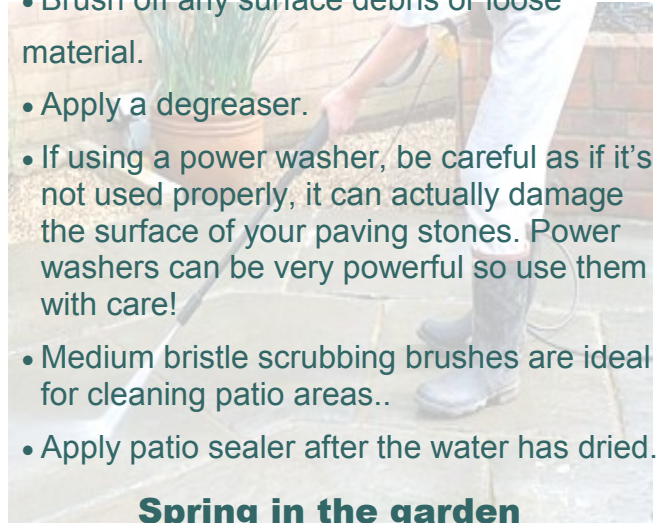
Now that spring is here, with thoughts of lazy summer evenings sitting outdoors, it's time to start working on your outdoor area.

Most paving products have a certain level of porosity, which increases with age, so they will be susceptible to mould and algae growth. It is advisable to coat all new patios with patio sealer within the first few weeks after installation (except in winter). This will offer protection from the elements and will make it easier to clean the surface.

Sealer needs only to be applied once annually after the initial two coats have been applied and should be reapplied when the weather gets drier.

Tips for washing your patio area

- Brush off any surface debris or loose material.
- Apply a degreaser.
- If using a power washer, be careful as if it's not used properly, it can actually damage the surface of your paving stones. Power washers can be very powerful so use them with care!
- Medium bristle scrubbing brushes are ideal for cleaning patio areas..
- Apply patio sealer after the water has dried.



Spring in the garden

Spring is a good time to start planning what plants you would like in your garden and make that trip to the garden centre. Spring bulbs can now be purchased already in flower in pots. You can plant the bulbs where you would like to see them come up next year.

Sprinkle a little bonemeal in the bottom of the hole when planting for strong growth. Always leave your daffodils to die down naturally as the flowers for next year develop inside the bulb after the flowers fade. By June, they should be finished.

**Ballygarvan Stonecraft now offers a
valeting service**

For only €280 incl. vat

Price includes

Labour (8 hours incl. travel)

Washing, cleaning equipment, cement mixer, consaw, electric kango with joint removal chisels.

www.ballygarvanstonecraft.com

Ballygarvan Stonecraft

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Ballygarvan Stonecraft's brain child Ballinreeshig Nature Farm invited the local community to plant ash trees



Picture left to right, Sean O'Halloran (owner of Ballygaravn Stonecraft) and guest of honour on the day All - Ireland medal winner Justin McCarthy.

On Saturday 14 January 2012 a new ash woodland was planted in Ballinreeshig Nature Farm with the help of over 40 enthusiastic people from the Ballygarvan GAA community. The day was part of the club's contribution to the establishment of this new woodland.

Ash has a long association with the game of hurling, and the volunteers will have a connection to this woodland for years to come.

The guest of honour on the day was well - known hurling coach and, All - Ireland medal winner Mr. Justin McCarthy. Justin unveiled the information sign for the woodland called; "*Garran Fuinseoige Mhuintir Garbhain*". He spoke very eloquently about the importance of planting of this woodland. He also spoke about being out in nature as one of the primary ways of achieving balance in one's life. He complimented the initiative been shown by the O'Halloran family, and all those involved with Ballinreeshig Nature Farm and the support of Ballygarvan GAA. Sean O'Halloran of Ballygarvan Stonecraft welcomed everybody to the event and thanked those present for their enthusiasm and support.

Ballinreeshig Nature Farm has welcomed volunteers to help in the tree planting project since November 2011.

Ballinreeshig Nature Farm is the brain child of Sean O'Halloran. Sean owns Ballygarvan Stonecraft, which supplies outdoor construction products and is passionate about creating harmonious outdoor areas, which are in keeping with the natural landscape.

Did you know that ash trees and hurleys have a long history?

Ash timber is strong and flexible and is a good shock absorber. For this reason it has been traditionally used in Ireland for the production of hurleys.

Irish ash is said to be the best kind of timber for hurley making due to the mild damp climate in Ireland. There have been experiments with the timber of other trees, but nothing has proven to be as good as ash.

Ash is native to Ireland and grows freely around Ireland, particularly in Munster where hurling is very popular.

Of the total hurleys produced every year (approx. 350,000), more than 75% of ash timber used is imported from the continent. Currently, the market is supplied by ash from all across Europe: Romania, Poland and the Czech Republic and other Eastern European countries, along with Germany and Britain.

Coillte has been working with the GAA and the Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers - formed in 1998 - to develop the home market for hurleys and to combat moves to introduce the plastic hurley.



How paving at Ballygarvan Stonecraft is made!!

All our paving stones and accessory products are manufactured at our factory premises at Ballinreeshig, Ballygarvan, Co.Cork. We use specially designed formulated mixes in our concrete. The main ingredients used in the mix design are “A” grade chippings (stone) and specifically selected washed sands along with cement with water and plasticisers that add waterproofing and tensile strengths to the finished product.

To achieve the required colours, we add colour pigments during the mixing process, and these colours are mixed in throughout the whole of the product.

After the mixing process is complete, the wet concrete is then placed in the various patterned moulds which are levelled and compacted in our in- house designed vibrating machines. This vibration and compacting technique, along with the specially formulated mixtures, creates a concrete product that has very high strength and good water repellent properties, that will give long years of usage.

The fresh/wet concrete is allowed to set in the moulds for a minimum of two days to harden off. The finished product is de-moulded and palletised and placed in the drying shed for up to one week before being put out into our covered stock yards. This system of production eliminates the need for covering of our products with plastic and minimizes the appearance of efflorescence (discolouration) and unsightly staining from moisture run - off.



Why choosing products produced locally is so important

- Our paving stones are made in Cork, from Irish sourced materials, creating employment here in Ireland.
- Over 93% of material used in our manufacturing processes are sourced within the Munster region.
- We support a number of local companies.
- When you support us, you are also supporting our suppliers:
Keohane Readymix, O'Neill Concrete, Arkill Quarries, O'Regans Quarries, Roadstone Wood, Irish Cement.
- We support the overall welfare of our country so that Ireland can be self-reliant and build a resilient economy.
- Local companies are very supportive of initiatives that benefit communities, through sponsorship of sports clubs, schools, etc.
- Every 70 sq. yards of our paving sold ensures 8 hours of in - house manufacturing employment.
- Our paving is consistent in terms of size and thickness. This means less time for its laying, so installation expenses are reduced.
- Established for over 35 years, we provide continuity of product and service with an in - depth knowledge of our product range.
- Our market research returns more than 90% customer satisfaction in the use of our products over many years.



“Good companies are important; they help to cultivate good quality”

**A Garden transformed with the help of the
Barnstore landscape design studio at Ballygarvan Stonecraft
All products manufactured at Ballygarvan Stonecraft**

Before Pictures



Creating a design for this garden was limited by existing structures, including paths which had already been laid.

The patio is laid with Old Valentia paving in a random pattern in mixed colours. An 8'6" diameter rotunda is incorporated into the patio, creating a courtyard feeling.

A stone seat is built against the shed, taking away the bare look of the walls and creating a nice area to sit on a sunny day. A concrete wall faced with Reesig wall blocks is on the upper level. It is capped with Old Valentia 12 x 18 slabs.

This is an interesting garden design of the garden as it introduced a lot of different spaces in one garden.

This garden will suit a person of any age. It is a classical design which will actually improve with age and maturity.

After Pictures



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***Landscape as a place where
people live***

