

## Mothers Union at the Ploughing 2019

The tents went up, the sun came out and the families arrived. The NPA Ploughing championship in Co. Carlow was hugely successful. The organisation that goes into building a temporary town that sees hundreds of thousands of men, women and children visiting over the 3 days, and then dismantling it again is phenomenal, and all credit is due to the NPA. The beautiful weather added to the festival atmosphere, with sunscreen, sunglasses and hats being the order of the day instead of the usual raincoats, woolly hats and wellies!



The Mothers Union baby feeding and changing marquee saw hundreds of babies, toddlers and their families visiting, and some good contacts were made. We were very pleased to facilitate so many, including an employee of the NPA, whom we communicate with every year but had never met in person. She came in with her young baby and was delighted with the service we provide. We were honoured to hear that the area for the Bandstand and Mothers Union stands are the first to be marked out on a new site, with everything else radiating from there. We were also able to provide a service for adults with disabilities, which once again was very appreciated

We couldn't provide our service without the help of the many volunteers, both local and from all over the country, Cork, Fermanagh, Offaly, Wexford and everywhere in between, with one lady saying she hadn't enjoyed a day as much in years! It was lovely to meet members from all over the country who dropped in to say hello, and browsed the well-stocked literature stand that Phyllis Foot had brought. With our former MU Diocesan and All Ireland President Phyllis Grothier, living just down the road, we had a local home from home which meant so much. Thank you to all who helped in any way. Early mornings, late nights, sore feet, but great fun and fellowship.

