

FESTIVAL OF FERNS 2023

FESTIVAL FUN - JUNE 4th AND 5th NEXT

Set to be a real community celebration, marking the culmination of the Ancient Connection project as it draws to an end this summer.

(see back page for more information on the Ancient Connections project).

The highlight of the 2 day festival will be a community parade, described as a visual spectacle by parade organisers Lantern Events. Don't miss an outdoor event on the castle green involving knights on horseback, re-enactment and an outdoor stage for some great music sessions.

The festival will celebrate community, art, heritage, music and dance, and will be held on the Sunday and Monday of the June bank holiday weekend. It's all about entertainment and fun.

There's something for everyone over the 2 day festival - music in local pubs, a concert in St. Edan's Cathedral, a community parade from the cathedral to the castle, and outdoor entertainment on a specially constructed stage on the castle green.

Ferns Concert 2023

The concert will be held in St. Edan's Cathedral, Ferns on Sunday, June 4th at 7.30pm. Featuring The Allabair Trio, with Melanie O'Reilly on vocals, David Creevy on guitar, and Brewen Favreau on Uilleann Pipes/Low Whistle, with



Photo Credit:
Small World Theatre

guest choir, the Chord on Blues led by Mary Moulds. This concert is the final part of the original song cycle composed by Melanie which comprises new songs inspired by the connection between St. Aidan and St. David.

Tickets @ €12 available on Eventbrite, search for Ferns Concert 2023 or follow the link on our website: www.fernsvillage.ie

Enquiries to:
fernsheritageproject@gmail.com

Community Parade

Bank Holiday Monday, June 5th

Starting at the Cathedral at 12 noon, the parade will invoke elements from the legend of St. Aidan and St. David forming a visual spectacle representing the journeys that took place crossing between Ireland and Wales. The parade will be a mix of visual spectacle, local groups and re-enactors.



Photo Credit: John Denby

We'll see a giant sea monster, representing the crossing of St. Aidan to Wales, whose head will have a moving mouth and a large body carried by a chain of performers accompanied by dancers animating fins and waves, bringing the sea monster to life.



Chord On Blues

Festival of Ferns 2023
Opening Event

THE
ALLABAIR
TRIO
CONCERT

With guests:
Chord On Blues choir

Sun, June 4th @ 7.30pm

St. Edan's Cathedral

Tickets: €12



Tickets available on fernsvillage.ie

The Allabair Trio



Photo Credit: Small World Theatre

A giant beehive and a swarm of bees will represent St. Aidan departing Wales with David's blessings and the founding of the monastery in Ferns by St. Aidan. The beehive float will be surrounded by bees around and about it and accompanied by performers carrying the queen bee.

Leading the parade will be Bloco Garman, a local Celtic drumming band. The loud upbeat music will amplify the medieval atmosphere.



The Horsemen of Eire will accompany the parade on horseback and dressed in medieval costume setting the tone for the festivities to follow in the castle. They have great experience in historical combat including jousting. Jack and Alessia are collaborating with the Ferns Heritage Project and GAA 'warriors' in creating a celebratory re-enactment inspired by Diarmait MacMurrough's conquering of Dublin in 1170. Be prepared for a spectacle!

Music in Local Pubs

Starting at 3pm on Sunday, June 4th till late, local pubs (Dunbar's, Doyle's Bar, The Thatch and The Courtyard) will host an array of musical talent adding to the atmosphere of the festival. **Keep an eye and ear out for buskers on Main Street throughout the day.**



Dermot Byrne



Brian Wall



Arthur Moynihan



Acko



Gary Davitt



Electric Finch



Eddie Crean and Richard King



O'Ceallaigh



Sean Mythen



Jimi Cullen



The Sweet Sorrows



Suzi and Friends



Shane Hurley



Helena Dunbar & Friends

Keep an eye on our social media channels and website for details and updates.

Ancient Connections programme

This 4 year EU funded project led by Wexford County Council and Pembrokeshire County Council (Wales) aims to revive the ancient links between these two Celtic communities. Over the 4 years both communities have come together to rediscover their shared heritage as well as trading knowledge, experience, and skills.

Ancient Connections' inspiration was the friendship between St Aidan and St David. The Festival of Ferns takes this theme and the many shared myths and legends and brings it to spectacular life with a parade of giant puppets, music, medieval enactments, local talent and more.



Contact information:

Email: secretaryfcda@fernsvillage.ie

Website: www.fernsvillage.ie



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