

FESTIVAL OF FERNS 2024

FESTIVAL FUN - JUNE 2nd AND 3rd NEXT

The highlight of this year’s festival will again be the Parade but this year, it will be led by ‘Diarmaid MacMurrough’ on his way to his inauguration ceremony as the King of Leinster on the grounds of Ferns Castle.

A festival celebrating community, heritage and culture will be held over two days, June 2nd & 3rd. All events are free to enter and all are welcome – so please help spread the word. The festival is a community event and we’d love you to be part of it.

Concert on the grounds of Ferns Castle - Sunday, June 2nd at 7pm

The main event on Day 1 of the festival, will be a Celtic Jazz concert entitled 'Marriage of Two Cultures' to be held on an outdoor stage on the grounds of Ferns Castle. The concert will premiere a specially commissioned piece inspired by the Gaelic/Norman relationship established in 12th century by Diarmait MacMurrough, King of Leinster through to contemporary times.

The location and performances by award winning vocalist/composer Melanie O’Reilly & her Celtic Jazz Ensemble along with the renowned choreographer Karine Saporta, and her dancers from Normandy ensures this will be a memorable experience.



Colourful Festival Parade on Monday, June 3rd at 12 noon

The highlight of the festival will be the community parade on Day 2 – giant props, medieval costumes and a Brazilian style carnival band will ensure a memorable visual spectacle.

The parade will be a mix of medieval costume, local groups and re-enactors. The infamous Diarmait MacMurrough, the 12th century Gaelic King who ruled from Ferns will even make an appearance alongside Strongbow & Aoife.

The Parade will start at 12noon from St. Edan’s Cathedral and will make its way to Ferns Castle.

Following the parade, on the grounds of Ferns Castle, festival goers are in for a treat as they will witness Diarmait MacMurrough addressing his people.



Funded through Fáilte Ireland in partnership with Wexford County Council - Festival Grant Scheme 2024.

Funded and supported by Wexford County Council as part of the Creative Communities Programme.





Fringe Events

Fringe events on Sunday feature a busking competition with a €200 prize to the winner, family activities at Ferns Community Park including Bemusement Games with Fuinseog Woodland, the Setanta Challenge and medieval stocks.



Also, don't miss the Norman & Gaelic Names project - a Coats of Arms exhibition by pupils of both local school at Scoil Naomh Maadhóg.

On Monday at Ferns Castle, enjoy medieval re-enactments, face painting, music and The Snails Tale.

Guided Tours and Talks

A first for Ferns - guided walking tours to key medieval sites in 4 languages – Japanese, French, Irish and English. Over the 2 days, other tours include a Rebel Tour of Ferns focusing on the 1798 Rebellion, the 1916 Rising and the Irish War of Independence and Civil War; a guided tour of the Ferns Tapestries in the Visitors Centre and a Talk and Display on Bees at the skeps in the Cathedral graveyard. The tours offer great variety to those interested in connecting with our heritage.



Music in local pubs - Trad, Folk, Dixieland, Blues and more

There will be a feast of music in all Ferns pubs on Sunday, June 2nd including Dunbars, Peter Doyle's, The Thatch and The Courtyard. Music will commence at 3.30pm immediately after the Ferns Patron until late in the evening. Artists booked to appear include Kieran McEvoy, Karen Dunbar, Pat Fitzpatrick, Eddie Crean & Richard King, Brian Wall & Sean Mythen, Helena Dunbar and her trad group, trad box players PJ Arthur & Lar White and many more.

An afternoon and evening of musicianship and enjoyment is sure to ensue so don't miss out on the fun! Weather permitting many sessions will be held outdoors.

For updates, check out the Festival of Ferns social media and web page: www.festivalofferns.com
Enquiries to the Festival of Ferns Committee at festivalofferns@gmail.com.

Funding and Sponsorship:

The Festival of Ferns Committee wishes to thank;

- Roche's Bus Hire and Irish Sea Contractors for their invaluable sponsorship.
- Friends of Festival of Ferns: Denby Engineering, Centra, Sean Lacey, Tom Morrissey, Crane Bag Consulting, OPW, Digital Support Solutions for their services & support.
- The many volunteers who make this festival possible.
- Failte Ireland Festival Grant Scheme, Creative Communities Programme & Wexford County Council

Call out for volunteers: The Festival of Ferns is looking for volunteers to help make our upcoming festival a fantastic family fun experience. If you know someone who'd like to get involved in helping with kids' games, please spread the word. If you'd like to get involved in any area of the festival – we'd love to hear from you. Please email: festivalofferns@gmail.com with your details.

FESTIVAL OF FERNS

Programme of Events 2024

Sunday, June 2nd

All events are free of charge!

Time	Event	Location
11am - 12pm	Guided walking tour of Ferns in Japanese with Mika Yakushiji	Meet at entrance to Cathedral graveyard, Eircode: Y21 E176
12pm - 1pm	Guided walking tour of Ferns in French with Rom Bates	Meet at entrance to Cathedral graveyard, Eircode: Y21 E176
12pm - 1pm	Talk & Display on Bees with Joe Kelly	Meet at entrance to Cathedral graveyard, Eircode: Y21 E176
2pm - 6pm	Fuinseog Woodland Craft: Bemusement Games for Kids	Ferns Community Park (behind Ferns Community Centre)
2pm - 6pm	Setanta Challenge: Test your skills	Ferns Community Park (behind Ferns Community Centre)
2pm - 6pm	Medieval Stocks: have fun trying out this medieval form of punishment	Ferns Community Park (behind Ferns Community Centre)
2pm - 6pm	Norman & Gaelic Names Exhibition; project by both local schools	Scoil Naomh Maadhóg
2pm - 6pm	Busking Competition; registration required. Email festivaloffers@gmail.com	Various locations
7pm - 8pm	Celtic Jazz Concert; Premiere of 'Marriage of Two Cultures'	Outdoor stage on grounds of Ferns Castle
3.30pm onwards	Live music in local pubs	Dunbars of Ferns, The Thatch, Doyle's Bar, The Courtyard

Monday, June 3rd

Time	Event	Location
12 noon	Community Parade	Meet at St. Edan's Cathedral
12.45pm - 4pm	Post Parade events: Face Painting; Reenactment; Inauguration of King of Leinster; Contemporary Dance; Chord On Blues Choir, Ragdoll—Wexford music duo	Grounds of Ferns Castle
3pm - 4pm	Guided walking tour in Irish with Bríd Ní Néill	Meet at entrance to Cathedral graveyard Y21 E176
4.15pm - 4.45pm	Tour of Ferns Tapestries by Ferns Tapestry Group	Ferns Castle Visitor Centre
4.45pm - 5.15pm	Tour of Ferns Tapestries by Ferns Tapestry Group	Ferns Castle Visitor Centre
5pm	Rebel Tour of Ferns with Barry Lacey	Meet at entrance to Cathedral graveyard Y21 E176
5.30pm	Guided Walking Tour in English by Catherine MacPartlin	Meet at entrance to Cathedral graveyard Y21 E176

Ferns Golf Classic 2023

The Ferns Community Development Association (FCDA) annual Golf Classic fundraiser is held in July each year. Last year 28 teams took part and a total of €5,800 was raised. Winners of the 2023 Classic were: House of Cards team: Ger Walsh, Les Walsh, Billy Walsh and Mick Walsh - sponsored by Kenny Fuels & Applegreen. The winner of the 1st prize of the raffle was Edward Ging – sponsored by Clayton Whites Hotel. FCDA wishes to thank all sponsors for their generosity in supporting the Classic – enabling the Association to deliver on a number of projects throughout the year. FCDA is a voluntary community group which organises a range of projects and events to the benefit of our community.



Save the date for Ferns Golf Classic 2024 on Friday, July 5th at Enniscorthy Golf Club with Centra continuing as main sponsor.

Annual Christmas Lights Table Quiz

The Ferns Community Development Association's annual Table Quiz raised €4,300 to fund Ferns' Christmas Lights. Last year's quiz at The Thatch drew a large crowd with Quiz Master Paul Doyle crafting engaging questions. Congratulations to winners The Dell Boys: Joan O'Toole, Pat Kinsella, Pat O'Toole and Lar O'Toole, and runners-up Tequilla Mockingbird: Aideen Bates, Rom Bates, Mathieu Bates and Stephen McGuinness.

Ferns Community Development Association thanked participants, helpers, sponsors and local business for their support. The Table Quiz was followed by a festival 'Switch On' ceremony with music and carols by Helena Dunbar School of Music and the Chord on Blues choir, plus a special visit from Santa, delighting all the children present.

Ferns Heritage Project

The Ferns Heritage Project (FHP) continues to promote and develop Ferns' tourism potential, focusing on its medieval history. Recent collaborations with the Festival of Ferns Committee include organising guided walking tours in four languages (Japanese, French, Irish and English) and collaborating with the Wexford Normandy Cultural Association for the 'Marriage of Two Cultures' at the festival Celtic Jazz concert.

The FHP also organised the Norman & Gaelic Names Project at local schools, where pupils researched and designed their family Coat of Arms.

FHP collaborated on the inauguration ceremony at the post-parade re-enactment event, with special thanks to Ronan O'Flaherty for his guidance and support.

Ferns Tidy Towns

Ferns Tidy Towns is a voluntary organisation whose focus is on presenting the village at its best while also promoting an awareness and appreciation of our environment and promoting community involvement in, and appreciation of, our wonderful village.

Building a strong, sustainable community by bringing people and groups together for the good of the wider community and society. Striving to create a climate of mutual respect, understanding, equality and diversity within the community.

Ferns Tidy Towns encourage and promote environmental awareness and education including waste minimisation and reduction to our carbon footprint and are pro-active advocates for sustainability, biodiversity, preservation of local heritage and the vision of being a sustainable energy community.



Ferns Village
ANCIENT CAPITAL OF LEINSTER

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