Welcome to Youghal Medieval Festival 2019!

It is such a pleasure to welcome you all to St. Mary’s College Gardens for the 13th annual Youghal Medieval Festival. Cork County Council is especially delighted to host this year’s event as title holders of ‘Festival of the Year’ 2018. We are recipients of this award from Chambers Ireland.

You will see that we have compiled a host of activities to suit kids of all ages at our main event, on Sunday 4th August. The new Inframous ‘White Horse Vikings’ will make our medieval gardens home for the weekend and we look forward to seeing their battles take place! The archaeological ‘dig’ for kids proved so popular in our 2018 event that we are delighted to welcome the team back again this year! Also, the ‘Sand Man’ was a major hit, and was first on our list when it came to preparing our programme of events for this year! We have a wonderful new addition this year in ‘Famyard in your Schoolyard’, watch out for the alpacas wandering around!

All the other favourites of course will still be in attendance as we bring you a first class programme of FREE entertainment in one of the most historic and beautiful settings in all of Ireland. While in Youghal, I would encourage you to view some of our attractions such as the Historic Cork Gate Tower and St. Mary’s Collegiate Church, which has the claim to being the oldest church in Ireland still in continuous use.

I would like to thank all our performers, entertainers, traders, event organisers, the huge team of volunteers, but in particular the Irish Walled Towns Network (Heritage Council of Ireland) for their continued support and contributions towards this event. We hope you enjoy Youghal Medieval Festival 2019!

Clr Christopher O’Sullivan, Mayor of the County of Cork

Useful numbers
Youghal Tourist Office: 024-20170
Youghal Garda Station: 024-92200

What do I bring/Wear?

 gev, a hat for little ones!
Rain? A waterproof poncho/walkies!

Polo? We have some wonderful food stalls but prepare to queue!

Make sure little ones wear old clothing! Remember they are going to be busy painting, getting faces painted, in sand etc!

For our extra small special festival goers, make sure you bring your buggy. The festival area is quite extensive!

What to do if I get separated from my kids?

Firstly, be prepared. Write your mobile number on their arm.

As soon as you arrive talk about what people who are working at event look like: in costume/high vis. Inaugurally adorning trowsers within the Gardens.

An Injury?

Don’t worry. We have experts in St. John’s Ambulance on hand all day to look after you! (Located outside main gates of garden).

EVENTS Saturday 3rd August

1pm-4pm Sir Walter Raleigh’s Treasure Trail

Perfect for kids! Head to St. Mary’s Collegiate Church and pick up a trail sheet. Find Sir Walter Raleigh’s head inside the Church. Explore the graveyard and the wonderful stories from the grave!

12.00pm Guided Tour of St. Mary’s Collegiate Church

Take a guided tour of Medieval St. Mary’s Collegiate Church, a place of international significance. This tour will suit families of all ages.

1.30pm ‘Predatory Birds - What do they eat?’

Talk by highly regarded conservationist, Pat Smiddy

Pat Smiddy makes a welcome return to tell us about the fascinating diet of these amazing birds! Meeting point St. Mary’s Collegiate Church.

2.30pm ‘The Heraldry of St. Mary’s Collegiate Church’ Talk by renowned author Gerard Crotty

Ever wanted to know more about the stories behind St. Mary’s stunning stained-glass window? An unmissable presentation by heraldry expert, Gerard Crotty.

3.30pm ‘Memorials of the Dead - Prewriting History - Richard Boyle and Others’

By historians, David Kelly.

Local historian, David Kelly gives an insight into the unique effigies and tombs in St. Mary’s Collegiate Church.

6.00pm FREE Gala Concert

(No Booking Required)

Youghal’s ‘Voice of an Angel’, Soloist, Caroline Fisher, will captivate us with her unique ethereal voice at St. Mary’s Collegiate Church.

MAIN EVENTS Sunday 4th August

1pm-4pm Sir Walter Raleigh’s Treasure Trail

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2pm & 4pm ‘Show & Tell’ Archery

Peter O’Connor returns to give his ‘hands on’ performance of close up magic and astonishing mind reading will leave you amazed.

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