

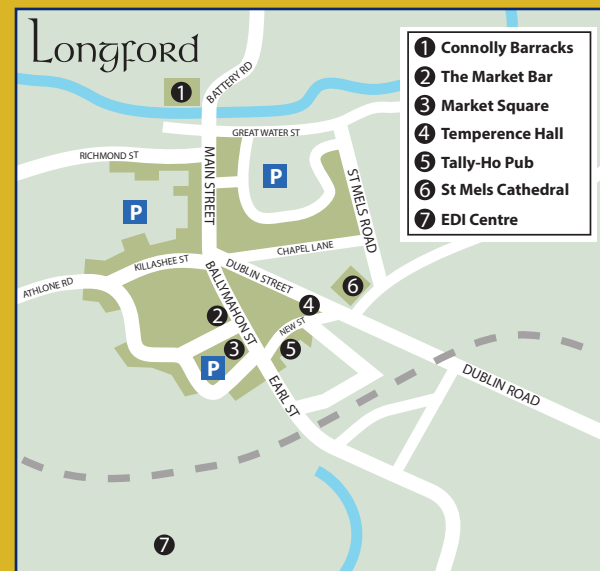


The Táin March 2019

"An Táin Bó Cuailnge" or the "Cattle Raid of Cooley" is the most famous of Ireland's ancient Irish sagas and is Europe's oldest recorded vernacular tale, said to date back to the 7th Century AD. It tells the story of a great cattle-raid and invasion of Ulster by the armies of Queen Medbh of Connacht, seeking to take by force, the great Brown Bull of Cuailnge.

The 2019 Táin March Festival Longford is dedicated to the celebration of Ireland's Warrior Woman, Queen Medbh (Maeve), as well as other powerful women in myth, legend and contemporary society. It makes up part of the much larger cross country walking and re-enactment Festival event that is the Táin March Festival

The Táin March, led by the Longford Queen Medbh will arrive into the town at 2.30pm on Sunday 19th of May. Welcomed by her Longford warriors, Medbh will proceed through the town from Connolly Barracks to the Ceremonial Centre where her army will have a feast, hear music, take part in Celtic costume workshops, storytelling, face painting and discussions on the unique history of The Táin. The procession will be announced by the sound of Ceremonial Iron Age Trumpets, bringing music archaeology to life and calling all the Warriors of Longford to join Medbh in her quest.



The 2019 Táin March festivities will take place in Longford Town on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of May and at Granard on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th of May. All of the Táin events are free of charge and are open to everyone, male and female, young and old. From crafts workshops, poetry and art exhibitions to traditional music and storytelling, there is something for all the family at this years Táin March Festival. We hope to see you there.

Táin March Festival



Longford

Táin March Festival



Longford

18th - 24th May 2019

A Series of Unique Events to Celebrate the March of Queen Medbh's Army through the County of Longford



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Táin March Festival Longford: Events

Saturday 18th May - Longford Town

Celtic Costumes - Family Workshop

Phil Atkinson of Mide Street Theatre will deliver two family costume design workshops where participants can create costumes, swords and shields for use in the Táin March and for the various costume competitions on Sunday 19th May.

Venue: EDI Centre, Mastertech Business Park, Longford Town

Time: 12–3pm (25 places) 3.30–6.30pm (25 places)

Booking is essential – all enquiries and bookings to hello@philatkinson.ie

All children must be accompanied by an adult. www.philatkinson.ie

Monumental Ireland - The Sacred Landscape

Simon Tuite of Monumental Ireland will deliver an informal talk on Ireland's ancient monuments and their associated mythology and folklore.

Venue: The Market Bar, Longford Town

Time: 7pm

www.facebook.com/monumentalireland

Queen Medbh 2019 - Ceremony

The 2019 County Longford Queen Medbh will be selected and presented with our Ceremonial Shield and Spear created especially for the occasion by Longford Woodturners. This unique work of art is passed year on year to the Queen Medbh for County Longford. Who will be this years Woman Warrior? Who will lead this years army?

Venue: The Market bar

Time: 8.30pm

*The Queen Medbh 2019 Ceremony will take place immediately before the Women of the Woods Performance by Candlelit Tales.

*The winners of the Ancient Music Ireland competition will be announced on the evening as well. Two lucky people will join Ancient Music Ireland in leading the Táin March through Longford town.

Women of the Woods – A Performance by Candlelit Tales

The Táin March Longford are delighted to present this new performance from candlelit Tales, an Irish Mythological storytelling, set to a live musical score. A blend of the ancient and contemporary. A unique, immersive, experience. Gather with us to hear the fascinating, ancient tales of Warrior Women, Druidesses, Shapeshifters and bringers of Life.

Venue: The Market Bar

Time: 9.30pm

www.candlelittales.ie

Sunday 19th May - Longford Town

Welcoming the Warriors to County Longford

The Táin March will be welcomed into the village of Clondra at 11am by Queen Medbh and her gathering of Warriors, who will then join Medbhs Army as they make their way to Longford Town. Come along the join the march but bring your swords and Shields for protection. There could be a battle! You never know!

Celtic Costumes Family Workshop

Phil Atkinson of Mide Street Theatre will deliver a Family Workshop to create costumes, swords and shields for use in the Táin March at 2.30pm and for the various costume competitions taking place on the day. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Venue: The Temperance Hall, Longford Town

Time: 12 – 2pm

Booking is essential – all enquiries and bookings to hello@philatkinson.ie

All children must be accompanied by an adult. www.philatkinson.ie

The Táin March Procession

The Táin March, led by Queen Medbh will arrive into Longford at 2.30pm. Welcomed by her Longford warriors, Medbh will proceed through Longford town from Connolly Barracks to the Ceremonial Centre where her army will have a feast, hear music, take part in Celtic costume workshops, storytelling, face painting and discussions on the unique history of The Táin. The procession will be announced by the sound of Ceremonial Iron Age Trumpets, bringing music archaeology to life and calling all the Warriors of Longford to join Medbh in her quest.

Venue: Connolly Barracks, Longford Town & The Temperance Hall, Longford Town.

Time: 2.30 - 3pm

Welcoming Ceremony

The leader of the March will present Queen Medbh to the warriors of Longford town and give a rousing speech on the challenge before Medbh and her armies.

Venue: Temperance Hall, Longford Town

Time: 3pm

Poetry and Art Exhibition

Local children will read their newly created poetry or songs, written especially for the day via the Heritage in Schools Scheme Workshops led by Chris Thompson of Story Archaeology. Their art work will also be on display for the duration of the day.

Venue: Temperance Hall, Longford Town

Time: 3.30 – 4.00pm

www.storyarchaeology.com

Storytelling and Face painting

Adding to the fun of the costumes will be some warrior face painting and an interactive storytelling circle which will introduce the children of Longford to stories of famous Celtic heroes and powerful women in Irish Legend and Mythology.

Venue: Temperance Hall, Longford Town

Time: 4.00 – 5.00pm

Celtic Costume Family Workshop

Phil Atkinson of Mide Street Theatre will facilitate a family workshop in the creation of swords and spears. Booking is essential as spaces are limited.

Venue: Temperance Hall, Longford Town

Time: 4.00 – 5.00pm

Booking is essential – all enquiries and bookings to hello@philatkinson.ie

All children must be accompanied by an adult. www.philatkinson.ie

Characters of the Táin – Hedgeschool

Paul Gosling, archaeologist and lecturer at GMT, alongside Mel O'Loan, Creative Director of The Táin March Festival, will present a short interactive discussion on the characters of The Táin.

Venue: The Temperance Hall

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Celtic Costume Competition Winners Announcement

The winners of the best family costumes and best sword and shield will be announced and prizes awarded. This is an annual competition sponsored by Phil Atkinson of Mide Street Theatre.

Venue: Temperance Hall, Longford Town

Time: 5.00pm – 5.30pm

Traditional Music & Storytelling Session

Poets, storytellers and musicians from across the county are called to join Queen Medbh and her warriors in a traditional celebration around the fire. Come in Costume with an appropriate story, song or poem and you may even win a prize!

Venue: Tally Ho Pub

Time: 7.00pm

www.facebook.com/tallyho.longford

Thursday 23rd May - Granard

Celtic Costume Family Workshop

Phil Atkinson of Mide Street Theatre will facilitate a family workshop to create costumes, swords and shields for use in this years Táin March and for the various costume competitions taking place on the day.

Venue: Granard family Resource Centre

Time: 12.00pm – 2.00pm

Booking is essential as spaces are limited. (25 -30 places)

All enquiries to Lus na Gréine at 043 6660977 lusnagreinefrc@gmail.com

Storytelling and Face painting

Adding to the fun of the costumes will be some warrior face painting and an interactive storytelling circle introducing the children of Longford to the legend of Queen Medbh of the Táin as well as famous Celtic heroes and powerful women in Irish Legend and Mythology.

Venue: Granard Family Resource Centre

Time: 12 – 2pm

Granard Knights & Conquests Heritage Centre

Management and staff at the new, state of the art Knights & Conquests Visitor Centre will host a visit and tour of this interesting Norman Ireland Experience. The centre provides an educational and interactive journey through time via innovative audio visual displays. A fun and unique experience for all the family giving an insight to the fascinating history of Granard.

Venue: Knights & Conquests Visitor Centre, Granard.

Time: 2.30 – 3.30pm

www.knightsandconquests.ie

Arrival of The Táin March in to Granard

Queen Medbh and her army will be greeted by children from the National Schools at Granard Knights and Conquests Visitor Centre. After touring the site they will march through the Town to Lus na Gréine -Granard Family Resource Centre.

Venue: Knights & Conquests Visitor Centre

Time: 3.45pm

Celtic Costumes & Storytelling

The team at Lus na Gréine FRC will facilitate a family workshop to create wonderfully decorative celtic swords and shields. There will also be facepainting, storytelling and an opportunity to meet with Queen Medb herself in the beautiful community garden at the centre.

Venue: Lus na Gréine Granard family Resource Centre

Time: 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Booking is essential as spaces are limited. (25 places)

All enquiries to Lus na Gréine at 043 6660977 lusnagreinefrc@gmail.com

Traditional Music Session

Honouring Queen Medbh and the long tradition of welcome and celebration in Granard, a gathering of local musicians will provide an evening of music, song and possibly a jig or two, in one of the towns most famous public houses – the spectacularly quaint John V Donohoes. Come along in costume and you may even win a prize!

Venue: John V Donohoes

Time: 8.30pm

Friday 24th May - Granard

Departing Ceremony

Queen Medbh and her army will depart Granard en route to the Cooley Mountains where they will endeavour to steal the famous Brown Bull of Cooley. The community of Granard are encouraged to bid Medbh and her warriors farewell on their epic quest or indeed even join her in the march to Cooley!

Starting Point: Knights & Conquests Visitor Centre

Time: 9.30am

