

MAD ABOUT CORK

The merry and the macabre

VIKING SWORDS, URBAN GARDENS AND STORIES FROM THE OLD LANEWAYS OF NORTH MAIN ST.

There has been so much happening in Cork the past while. Events like Sounds from A Safe Harbour, Culture Night, and the Cork Folk Festival, to name just a few, have been hugely successful. It's fantastic to see the city buzzing and we still have the Jazz Festival and the Dragon of Shandon Parade to look forward to this October.

We were delighted with the turnout for our theatrical history tours of the old laneways of North Main St as part of the Culture Night programme. It was encouraging to see so many people take an interest in one of our favourite parts of the city. Led by an 18th century gentleman, Sir John Terrye (Mad About Cork member John O'Sullivan in disguise), the large crowd that attended were treated to stories both merry and macabre, such as the tale of the poisoning of Denis Connor in 1769 by his wife and her lover on New Bridewell Lane.

We also paid tribute to Perkin Warbeck (with a little David Bowie homage thrown in for good measure) on our latest street art piece at Skiddy's Plaza on North Main St. When Warbeck arrived in Cork in 1491, the public mistook him as being a claimant to the English crown. Warbeck saw an opportunity and took full advantage, building up support and eventually leading a failed invasion against the first Tudor King, Henry VII. For its role in making Warbeck a 'pretender to the throne', Henry mockingly dubbed Cork the 'Rebel City', a nickname which has stuck to this day.

Looking ahead, we'll be busy getting our urban gardens winter ready with some new bedding plants being put in. We're also planning an exciting new project that will see us plant one of each 22 native Irish tree species across the city in decorative wooden boxes, starting at our vegetable garden on the Coal Quay.

And speaking of the Coal Quay, we're holding a talk at the veg garden at 4pm on October 7th



as part of the Cork Food Harvest Festival. John O'Sullivan will once again lead the way discussing the rewards and challenges of growing your own food in urban centres. John will also chat about the Coal Quay's strong links with harvest days in the past with its former name of Potato Quay hinting at its history.

One other recent event that piqued our interest lately was the discovery of a 1,000 year old Viking wooden weaver's sword and ground plans of 19 Viking-age houses during an archaeological dig at the old Beamish and Crawford site. The remarkable find suggests that Cork's Viking heritage may be of far more importance than previously thought. This got us thinking that a Viking-style piece of street art might be called for at some stage in the next few weeks. Keep an eye on the streets for this one.



Along with this project we'll also be working on lots of other urban gardening and street art projects in the coming months. Keep up to date with our work @MadAboutCork on Facebook, twitter and Instagram, and to get involved email info@madaboutcork.