

Music

Over the festival weekend we will have an eclectic selection of music. The wonderful Eugene Ginty of the three Irish Tenors fame entertains us early on Saturday. Traditional music is by the ever-popular “The Full Shilling”, the rock group ‘Caution’ appear unplugged, and DJ Beowulf plays a selection of atmospheric Viking and Celtic music to keep us entertained.



Danish Viking Craft Traders at the Festival



Local Food and Crafts
We have crafts people and food producers showcasing and selling their produce at the festival. We have a ‘sugar-craft’ demonstration by the excellent ‘Cake Cake Babie’

Duck Race (6:30pm Sunday at the harbour) Ducks €5 each with excellent prizes—1st prize is €200, 2nd €150 and 3rd is €50.



Other Activities: Irish dancing with fantastic ‘**Celtic Blondes**’ Archery, Funfair, face-painting, History walks of the village by local historian and author Micheal Mckeown, food stalls, plus art, craft and hand-made jewellery stalls.

Directions: M1 Motorway, Exit 15 to Castlebellingham, follow signs to Annagassan.

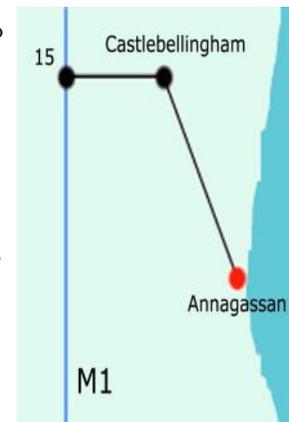
FREE children under 12, Adults €10 or Weekend Pass €15 .

OAPs/Students €5

FREE parking.

Supported by: Louth Leader Partnership, Dromad Hire, Oxigen, Applegreen, Celtic Canoes, Noel Carroll’s family, John Hand and Associates, MCM Surfacing Ltd plus the local community and businesses.

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Annagassan Viking Festival



August 9th–11th 2013

Annagassan, Co. Louth

www.annagassanvikingfestival.ie

Official opening at 2:00 pm by

Mrs. Grete Ødegaard,

Deputy Head of the

Royal Norwegian Embassy

Email: info@annagassanvikingfestival.ie



Annagassan—Home of the Linn Duachail Viking Longphort

Annagassan's Viking History

Viking activity is documented in the Irish annals from the 820s and the foundation of a permanent settlement at Linn Duachail is recorded in 841. For 50 years Linn Duachail was an important base from which raids were launched into the Irish interior and on Britain. In 891 the Vikings were expelled by the Irish, however, after 20 years they returned and Linn Duachail was used as a base until 927. In its early phase Linn Duachail rivalled Dublin as a Viking base on the east coast. However, its location was not favourable for the development of a town and it was eclipsed later by Dublin and abandoned. Linn Duachail's location was a mystery to antiquarians, and historians since at least 1750. We confirmed its location in 2010 when archaeologists, working with the community, discovered evidence of a major Viking settlement in Annagassan.



Photo - Excavation 2010

International Viking Festival

Our international Viking festival celebrates Annagassan's Viking past. We erect a Viking village, build a Viking Longship, run battle reenactments, history events and host international Viking groups. It's a fun-filled weekend with lots to see and do for both children and adults.



Events 2013

Friday 9th 8:00pm - Viking Dusk March

From 7:30pm, 'Beowulf' plays atmospheric Viking music. At 8:30 our Danish Vikings award prizes for the best children's Viking costumes in the marquee. This is followed by the 'Viking Dusk March'. A Viking Longship is paraded with flaming torches to the harbor. There, the Viking Archers fire flaming arrows to set it alight for a ceremonial burning.



Saturday 11:00am - Annagassan Viking 10k Coastal Run

AAI approved 10k run with stunning views along the seaside. In memory of Ireland's Olympian, Noel Carroll.



Viking Battle Reenactments! Watch spine chilling displays of the ferocious battle tactics of our ancient settlers. The clash of swords and the crash of shields is heard throughout the village.



Free Children's entertainment

Bouncy Castles
Children's play area
Climbing Wall
Children battle (and defeat) the Vikings
Viking sagas and story-telling
Children's Disco on Sunday
Viking Play Boat



Medieval Plays in the Marquee

The Cuchulainn Players with little help from us will stage three plays depicting (1) The Vikings arrival at Annagassan (2) The Raid from the Linn Duachail upon Clonmacnois (3) The Death of Turgis. These were written for us by the renowned U.S. medievalist Michelle Markey-Butler.

Viking Weapons Demonstration

The Magnus Viking group will demonstrate the use of Viking weaponry and their development over time. Following this, the children do battle with and defeat the big bad Vikings.



Viking Village - a working Viking village will showcase how the Vikings lived with crafts, foods, drinks, weaponry, jewellery and the general Viking way of life. We will have international Viking traders, crafts people, and warriors from many countries.