

News

HERITAGE

Recalling the killing of a Limerick king



Brian Boru's invasion of Scattery Island and the killing of Ivar, the Viking King of Limerick, will be reenacted during the Scattery Island Festival.

by Alan Jacques
alan@limerickpost.ie

NO, IT'S not some medieval version of 'Crimecall', but instead the reenactment of Brian Boru's invasion of a monastic settlement and the subsequent killing of the Viking King of Limerick is all being done in the best possible taste as part of the Scattery Island Festival.

Taking place on July 26 and 27, the festival also features guided walks, lectures, music and song, and marine activities celebrating the island's association with St Senan, the Vikings, Brian Boru, the Spanish Armada and later as a defence outpost for the British.

The reenactment of the raid on the island by Brian Boru and his army is the main event of the upcoming Scattery Island Festival, which is part of the national Brian Boru Programme and coincides with the millennial anniversary of Boru's death at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

Academics and historians have for many years argued whether or not Boru broke sanctuary by killing on church land as he sought revenge for the murder by King Ivar of his older brother and King of Munster, Mahon. Most agree however, that it consolidated Brian's position as Mahon's successor and helped him become High King of Ireland.

"Whatever one's opinion is of the manner in which the Norse King was slain, it is clear that his

death paved the way for Brian to enjoy unchallenged rule over Munster," commented director of Irish Studies at Mary Immaculate College, Dr Catherine Swift.

Uninhabited since 1979, Scattery Island is located one mile from Kilrush in the Shannon Estuary and is home to a monastery founded in the early 6th century by St Senan. The island features the ruins of six churches and one of the highest Round Towers in Ireland at 120 feet high.

For more information www.brianborumillennium.ie.

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