

PRESS RELEASE 2ND MARCH FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TED FEST II “DRAWS” TO A CLOSE

Ted Fest II finishes on a fitting note with world’s biggest cup of tea

Hundreds braved stormy seas in order to revel in the eccentric delights of Ted Fest Inis Mor, and enjoy the astounding hospitality and beauty of the island.

Ted Fest Inis Mor came at the end of a week that commenced with the inaugural Ted Fest Kilfenora, whose highlights included an evening with writers Graham Linehan and Arthur Matthews. The week continued with the launch of the Dermot Morgan Foundation in Galway, before festivities moved to Inis Mor. The weekend also marked the culmination of the herculean milkfloat push around Ireland, to raise money for Downs Syndrome Ireland, in an event sponsored by Paddy Power.

With an island at capacity, ecclesiastical revellers had a ball of a weekend, sampling joys including a Priests and Nuns 5-a-side football tournament, the finale of the Paddy’s Lovely Girls competition, and a sell-out performance of Ted as Gaeilge by local school children.

To say participants entered into the spirit of things would be an understatement. Nuns, priests and a man with a brick graced the island, with a Lovely Horse cantering in their midst.

Sicilian favourites made an early exit from the Paddy Power Craggy World Cup, with island teams Inis Mor and Inisboffin battling it out in the final. Innisboffin were the ultimate victors, taking home the prize of 5000 euro for their local lifeboat service, courtesy of Paddy Power.

Love was in the air on the island, with nuns and priests alike flocking to the Buckaroo Speed dating event, and a unique “Fr Ted wedding” allowing a pair of lovebirds to tie the knot. Among spectators were the first ever Fr Ted marrieds, who tied the knot this time last year at the first Ted Fest.

Paddy’s Lovely Girls competition offered beauty without parallel, and a host of unique talents in a hotly contested competition. But after the heated sandwich competition, Galway Lovely Girl Tara Kilbane proved victorious. The award, she told us, is “ the best thing” that has ever happened to her. “I’m dedicating my win to my lovely Mayo mammy,” she continued.

And to round it all off in the only way that seemed appropriate, Ted Fest II drew to a close with the World’s Biggest Cup of Tea, with festival director Fergal McGrath among the first to be dunked in its milky depths.

To hear more confessions from the weekend, check out www.friendsofted.org.

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