

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Fingal 'Blooms' With Gold Medal**

Fingal County Council was awarded a prestigious Gold Medal by independent judges at the *Bloom In The Park Festival 2011*, and was best in category in the Educational Display Category. The five day food and garden festival which ran over the June Bank Holiday weekend in the Phoenix Park was attended by 90,000 visitors from all over Ireland and abroad, and was officially opened by Her Excellency the President of Ireland Mary McAleese.

The design of Fingal's exhibit was inspired by the beautiful Victorian Walled Garden at Ardgillan Castle, located near Balbriggan. The enclosed garden at Ardgillan is open to the public 365 days of the year and has herb, vegetable, fruit flower and rose gardens. The winning design also included an old millstone from Skerries Mills; and eggs and produce from Newbridge House & Farm near Donabate. Climbing roses, jasmine, flowering plants and even red cabbage provided a lovely pink and purple colour scheme. Old gardening tools from a bygone era hung above a potting bench, and onlookers were treated to tasty Fingal strawberries. A flat screen monitor was set into the 'garden-worker's shed' door to display images of what Fingal's Heritage Properties has to offer when visitors come to Ardgillan, Skerries Mills and Newbridge House and Farm.

Fingal County Council hopes to bring this display out into the community at various locations such as shopping centres around the county and across Dublin throughout the summer months. If you missed the opportunity to see this display at Bloom, keep an eye out at your local shopping centre for it. Dates and locations for the tour will be posted on [www.fingalcoco.ie](http://www.fingalcoco.ie) or on [twitter.com/fingalcoco](https://twitter.com/fingalcoco).

Alternatively, come out and spend some time at Newbridge House and Farm, Ardgillan Castle or Skerries Mill and enjoy the experience first hand.

**ENDS 10/06/11**

### **Notes to Editors**

- The display cost €5,687 to construct, (this includes exhibitors fee) including a '*trompe l'oeil*' backdrop, recycled black and red clay floor tiles, flatscreen monitor on constant loop, climbing roses and fragrant jasmine plants, pink and purple colour scheme, and fruit & produce.
- '*trompe l'oeil*' is an art technique used to create a 3-D optical illusion.
- A voucher for discounted admission to any/all of the three heritage properties featured in this display can be downloaded and printed from [www.fingalcoco.ie](http://www.fingalcoco.ie)