



Press Release

Friday, 17th June 2016

Want to try your hand at archaeology? Season two of the Swords Castle Digging History-Community Archaeology Project is taking place from the 19th August to the 5th September, and we need volunteers.

The project, funded by Fingal County Council and the Heritage Council, allows members of the public to take part in a real archaeological dig, and to help us answer unanswered questions about our National Monument.

Christine Baker, Fingal Community Archaeologist explains;

“Swords Castle is one of the best surviving examples of an archbishop’s residence in the country, and was an important administrative centre.



We’re looking for volunteers (18yrs and over) to join us for this excavation. No experience is necessary, and we have a number of roles for those who aren’t up to digging.

This season, we hope to find out if there is a graveyard underneath the Castle, if there were buildings within the Castle yard, and just how old the different buildings in the complex are. Volunteers will have a front row seat as we focus on the history and geology of the stones, and investigate the

works carried out in the 1970’s. ”

Paul Reid, Chief Executive, Fingal County Council commended the work done last year and the upcoming excavation, saying;

“The Community Archaeology Project is a fantastic example of how a collaboration between Fingal County Council, our citizens, and visitors to our county has produced a real and meaningful insight into the rich history of our National Monument. Swords Castle is a wonderful landmark, and the works, when completed, will highlight its spot as a jewel in our heritage offering.”

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David O’Connor seconded these sentiments saying;

” The renovation works have given us a great opportunity to continue the work we started last year with the first Community project. We hope that the new season of work will help us to uncover more of the stories of our past citizens, and create a whole new story for our volunteers.”

To book your place on the project contact us at christine.baker@fingal.ie

To follow the progress, like the Swords Castle Digging History Facebook page, and follow us at @fingalheritage on Twitter.

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Photos

Christine Baker Fingal Community Archaeologist, Chief Executive Fingal County Council Paul Reid, Mayor of Fingal Cllr. David OConnor