

Dromahair Demons' Festival

Jo Lewis

FOR ONE DAY each summer, the little village of Dromahair is transformed into a hub of activity, music, arts and craic. A fantastic parade of elaborate characters and revellers wind through the main street and people dance until the early hours. Which can only mean one thing—the Dromahair Demons' Festival.

The festival, now in its fourth year, was started by a group of local visionaries who saw an opportunity to utilise the creative minds in the village to create a day with something for everyone. "There are so many artists, writers, filmmakers and musicians living in Dromahair, which is great for an event like this. Everyone has something to offer and we're lucky that so many people want to contribute"

Each year is themed and this year the festival used the: Legends of Fionn mac Cumhaill. Illustrating the story of how the giants' causeway came to be. This resulted in two giant models being made by local artists (and ended with both being pummelled with papier maché boulders). Children from all the schools came together wearing costumes depicting elements of the 'Salmon of knowledge' and 'Baby Fionn'.

The day started with a 'Picnic as Gaeilge' and nature walk and children's treasure hunt; then, throughout the day there was an array of differ-



ent activities such as storytelling, felt-making, stalls, a bouncy castle and bungee run, as well as a mechanical bull. Buskers of all ages lined the streets to entertain and compete. The Fanzini brothers were bought on to make sure everyone was laughing for the day.



Snail racing and slow bike racing entertained the crowds.

The local theatre group, the "Loch Gill Players" hid around various points of an archeological walk, ready to leap out and regale participants with tales of Dromahair throughout the ages.

A wildflower walk, and wheelbarrow race offered very different sorts of fun...one educational and the other... well, was just fun.

When the parade was finished, the music began. Local groups Easy Rider and the Venusians have played for the last two years, as have Raw Chocolate. Headlining this year was Joe Fury and the Hay Ride, who wrapped the night up with some great crowd pleasers.

The Dromahair Demons Festival has grown from a small gathering to an integral part of village life, with help from local businesses and for 2011 the Leitrim Development Company Rural Development Programme. Thanks to both their assistance and the fantastic community spirit of the village, the Demons Festival is set to put Dromahair on the map.

The Dromahair Demons Festival runs each June. For more information, pictures and video visit: www.dromahairdemonsfestival.ie and Facebook.