

A historical painting of Carrickfergus Castle and its harbor. The castle's stone walls and towers are prominent in the foreground and middle ground. In the harbor, several large sailing ships with multiple masts are docked. A large group of soldiers in uniform is gathered in the foreground, some standing near cannons. The scene is set against a backdrop of a cloudy sky and distant hills.

Carrickfergus Castle Conference

Earls, Gunners & Tourists

The Past and Future of Carrickfergus Castle
Carrickfergus Town Hall, Friday 28 October 2011



CSG



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Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency

Carrickfergus Castle

The NIEA has combined with the Castle Studies Group and Carrickfergus Borough Council to organise a conference about Carrickfergus Castle. It was first built at the end of the 12th century (probably started in 1177-9) and was continuously occupied from then until 1927 when the army handed it over to the Northern Ireland Government as an Ancient Monument. It was built on a rocky promontory projecting into the sea with three wards; the inner one is dominated by a Great Tower; the outer by the double-towered gatehouse.

The castle is in need of a full review of the state of its research, conservation and presentation. The aim of the conference is to inform the local community and the wider academic one of the plans for this, concentrating on the Great Tower, which needs urgent physical conservation. Papers are intended to cover the wider context of the castle and the Great Tower, the evidence for its development and ideas for conservation.

Saturday Workshops

There are specialist workshops in the Great Tower for the Castle Study Group on the Saturday morning following the conference. As space is very limited, these are by invitation only.



Programme Schedule

Location: Carrickfergus Town Hall - The Jubilee Hall

- 09:00 Registration & Reception
- 09:40 Welcome Address to Conference by Mayor Alderman Jim McClurg
- 09:50 Terence Reeves-Smyth (NIEA) - Lecture 'Carrickfergus Great Tower and its Roof - Problems and Opportunities'
- 10:30 Pamela Marshall 'Great Towers in Context'
- 11:10 Tea & Coffee
- 11:40 John Goodall (Country Life) - 'Evidence and Preconception: Restoring and Presenting Great Towers'
- 12:20 Kathryn Roberts 'Castle Conservation in Practice - Cheptow and Harlech'
- 13:00 Lunch (a light lunch is provided)
- 14:00 Con Manning (Dept. Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht) - 'The Great Tower in Ireland'
- 14:40 Dermot MacRandal (NIEA) - 'Practicalities of Creating Replica Historic Roofs'
- 15:20 Tea & Coffee
- 15:50 Tom McNeill - 'Carrickfergus Castle. The Evidence and A Way Forward'
- 16:30 -17.30 Discussion

Attendance Fee

We are asking for a donation for attendance of £8 (includes a light lunch) This can be paid at the door on the way into the Conference. However, as space is limited, and in order to assist us with catering arrangements, we would be grateful if you would let us know in advance if you are planning to attend. This can be done by giving your name, telephone number or email address.

Contact us

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Please let us know if you need to cancel.

Location

