



## Fun Ride 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

The Fun Day kicked off on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October with all sorts of ghouls and goblins around the village of Timahoe under the watchful eye of the Round Tower, four monks, a cockerel and a mouse.

The Heritage Centre was base camp for the day in the grounds of the round tower. For those who enjoy history and a background to where they are The Tower was built by St Mochua, a warrior who later turned to religious vows. Augustine Canon monks ran the Tower, until they were murdered under the orders of Oliver Cromwell in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The infamous spot where they were killed is called 'Murder Lane', on the road from Timahoe to Stradbally. In 1827 a man named Daniel Keane climbed to the top of the tower for a bet. When he won, he gave the money to the Catholic Church in Timahoe.

The day was kind to riders with no rain, a surprise after the storm on the Saturday. Thankfully the storm didn't dampen the enthusiasm of riders who arrived covered up in various forms of fancy dress.

We were short a cauldron for the three witches Anne Kinsella, Niamh Cooney and Colette Croke but they managed without for the day, luckily. Our only vampire Pat Cooney enjoyed the spin across Fossey Mountain on Ringo who took it all in his stride. Sisters Lisa O'Regan and Jill Mullen rode alongside Paddy Doyle and Aisling who brought a bit of drama to the day, dressed as Hamlet with skull in tow. Our two cowboys Peter McLoughlin and Susanne O'Rourke added a more equine flavour to the ride. Susanne stayed on the ground while Natasha her daughter as the zombie took to the tracks on Rio. Eileen Burrell had a fun day trying to explain to her mare Lucy why a zebra in the form of Eilish Moore and deer aka Evelyn Moore were frequenting the venue.

While Michael Moore was the lumber jack on the day (on horseback) the real man for moving trees on the day was Patrick Byrne. Patrick ever the gentleman took to the track before riders to mark the course and also clean up any debris from the day before. This is the unseen work that goes on behind the fun and games, so thanks to Patrick for a job well done. Our most appropriate rider on the day has to go to Terri Moore who in keeping with the ambiance of the venue came as one of the

monks from the Tower and her sidekick Drummer never batted an eyelid when he brought her up on the mountain.

All the riders retired to the heritage centre afterwards for refreshments of buns, barmbrack and hot beverages followed by the prize giving for the junior riders who received their rosettes and treats and the adults received rosettes and wine for the best turned out. Thanks to Yvonne for doing the groundwork on the day, Patrick for marking and unmarking the course and also Coillte and the Timahoe Heritage Centre for the use of their venue.