



## **RATHNADRINNA RESEARCH EXCAVATION, CASHEL, CO. TIPPERARY, IRELAND**

July 1, 2012 Richard O'Brien Community Archaeology, Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2012, Early Medieval, Excavation, Post Medieval, Prehistory Austria, Brazil, Cashel Co., Celtic art, fort bank, Germany, Ireland, James Bonsall, Lithuania, Medieval architecture, Poland, Rathnadrinna Fort, Rock of Cashel, Royal Irish Academy of Ireland, Site Director, United Kingdom, United States, [www.facebook.com/rathnadrinna](http://www.facebook.com/rathnadrinna)

This year marks the first season of excavation on Rathnadrinna Fort, funded by the Royal Irish Academy of Ireland. Rathnadrinna Fort is a trivallate, circular hilltop enclosure situated in Lalor's-Lot townland, 3.33km south-southeast of the Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. The hilltop affords the fort extensive views across the adjacent low lying land and is inter-visible with a number of high-status forts surrounding the Rock of Cashel, to the north. Rathnadrinna Fort is the largest and best preserved of Cashel's forts, and research here presents an ideal opportunity to learn more about the evolution and function of such sites in a royal landscape.

After three weeks digging we have uncovered a stone-lined corn-drying kiln outside the fort, the excavation of the fort ditches is underway and these are proving to be substantial in nature. We

have revealed the old ground surface beneath portions of the fort banks and the excavation of the fort interior is revealing many interesting features. Finds to date include worked flints, an unidentified ferrous object from the fill of the kiln, and an interesting assemblage of late post medieval finds from a dumping episode outside the fort bank.

Our international team of volunteers includes diggers from Brazil, USA, Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Austria, England and Ireland. We have facilitated local primary school visits where the children were able to be archaeologists for a day, meet the diggers and see our discoveries. For the Day of Archaeology Rowan Lacey gave a display of flint knapping, James Bonsall did a Magnetometer Survey over our kiln, Liudas Juodzbals showed us a DVD of his experimental iron working, we had a game of hurling, the site director bought everyone a bag of the finest Morelli's chips and Mickaela from San Paulo made a cheese fondue! Follow us on [www.facebook.com/rathnadrinna](https://www.facebook.com/rathnadrinna)