

## The Vikings are coming!

I suppose that in this year 2014, the 1000th year anniversary of the famous battle of Clontarf it was only fitting that we should have visitors from Scandinavia in the guise of the students and teachers from the Norre Gymnasium from Copenhagen



On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, a group of 20 Danish students and two teachers came to Galway. One of their teachers, Thomas Lynnerup Jakobsen, met Fr. Barry Hogg and Mr Murphy on an earlier visit with Lissi, one of Norre Gymnasium English teachers, accompanying him.

Dinner had been arranged in the College for everyone and the group were introduced to their hosts. Next day the Danish students sampled classes in an Irish school. Mr Lennon kindly

organised hurling, Gaelic football and handball for our visitors. Meanwhile, St. Mary's College students were very interested in becoming acquainted with the twelve lovely Danish ladies....

An Irish cultural event was organised for Friday evening. Our Danish visitors appreciat-

ed the Sean Nós singing, Uilleann pipes, Flute, Accordion, Bódhran and fiddle playing. Past-students, Craig and Colin Glynn, with their sister Michaela delighted the audience with tap dancing and brush dances. The Danish students attempted these dances too. Their teacher, Thomas, played the piano and his class sang in the parlour. On Saturday morning, April 5<sup>th</sup>, St. Mary's College students and the Norre Gymnasium group set off for Inis Mór. The morning was drizzly but once we landed at Kilronan weather improved and the students couldn't be stopped racing on their bicycles around Inis Mór!! Unfortunately, the Coast road was closed due to storm damage. We spent the day breathing in the wild Atlantic air and enjoying the silence of Inis Mór! All students were mesmerized by the spectacular landscape at Dun Aonghusa in the sun. Everyone mingled well and enjoyed getting to know each other.



On Sunday morning the Norre Gymnasium group attended 11am Mass in Galway Cathedral to hear the choir. Afterwards they travelled to the Temple Bar area of Dublin. There they boarded the Jeanie Johnson, toured Trinity College, climbed around Howth Head and visited the Gate Theatre to see a performance of an Oscar Wilde play. The ladies also spent their hoards of Viking gold in Dublin stores!! They had been looking for Leprechauns...

We look forward to meeting them again next Easter in Copenhagen when we travel out to experience their school.

Mary McKearney and Gráinne Kelly

