

Cork Butter Museum – Firkin Crane

To the right is a picture of a road side butter market. In the background we can see a balance hanging off a horse cart which is being used to weigh butter.



Fairy Superstition

The existence of fairies in society is a complex and interesting story.

Fairies were considered as a 'society outside society'. They garnered both respect and fear.

Connections between public values and fairy aggression have been highlighted – if someone wasn't able to fulfil the duties that were expected of them it was assumed that fairies had some part to play in it. So if someone couldn't make butter, people thought the fairies had stolen it.

Fairies could 'take' someone, for better or for worse – musicians, wisewomen and other ritual specialists were improved by being taken, others simply suffered. People who crossed fairies (disturbing fairy trees, building houses in the way of fairies, etc) were more likely to be punished by the 'fairy stroke' or the 'fairy wind'.

Thank you for weighing a superstition.

This firkin crane was developed as part of a Research Degree by Martin McCarthy, who is interested in how people engage with technology in museums. No personal information was recorded when people were using either the firkin crane or this web page.

If you could fill out a short survey it would be greatly appreciated. All information gathered is anonymous and will be treated with utmost respect.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P9N58VW>

If you have any enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact Martin at martin.mccarthy@mycit.ie