

Like a DIY Project Gone Wild and Wooly...

You know that little weekend project that looks so quick and easy? So do-able. It'll done in a couple of hours, at the most... right? It starts with a trip to the hardware store on the way home from work. You grab the supplies on the list and you're feeling good in the self-checkout line. This is going to be a breeze... Yeah, you know how that goes, right? The two-hour do-it-yourselfer that turns into three more trips to the hardware store, and includes rewiring, re-measuring, re-cutting, re-building, and re-painting. It eats up your entire weekend. When it's done, it's great! Sometimes it's even perfect. But, good grief, who would have thought it would take all that time?!

That's what the Merchant contracting process has turned into, folks. Learning a new software system, rebuilding the base, re-requesting information you have already delivered, finding lost files and researching the fees, and the rules, and past agreements, and the hand-shakes and the verbal approvals. The good news? Like the wild and wooly DIY project consuming several weeks instead of a couple of days, the task is nearing completion. Your friendly neighborhood Merchant Coordinator has been working as fast and as accurately as possible to deliver your Celtic Fling and Faire agreements and the end is in sight. Full-time Merchants, if you have yet to received your agreement, feel free to check in by emailing R.Harrison@parenfaire.com.

To Everyone- your patience while four months of work has been crammed into 6 weeks has been immensely appreciated.

By the Numbers

FLAVORFEST:

Tickets scanned on Saturday: 2267

Tickets scanned on Sunday: 2088

Full-time Merchants of the Shire open for business: 31

Guest Merchants set up for the weekend: 20

Wineries./Distilleries/Breweries participating: 34

CELTIC FLING:

Full-time Merchants participating: 86

Guest Merchants signed up for the weekend: 45

Tickets currently pre-sold: 2205 (Sat) & 1478 (Sun)



Revised Handbook is Available in the Portal Review the Handbook & Sign the Acknowledgement

The Merchant Handbook of Policies and Procedures has been refreshed (and alphabetized!) as has the Guest Merchant Policies and Procedures document. Please pay a visit to the **Merchant Portal** to read, and acknowledge you have read, the Handbook. You will receive a paper copy of the Handbook with your Merchant Packet for Celtic Fling, or Faire if you aren't joining us for Celtic Fling.

Recognize that you, the business owner are responsible for educating and informing your employees of the policies and procedures detailed in the Handbook.

Visit the Merchant portal at parenfaire.com/merchantportal

Celtic Fling & Highland Games

27th Annual Event on June 27-28

Throughout the centuries, the tradition and charm behind the music, dance and stories of the Celtic peoples have captivated the world. The contributions of the Irish, Scots, Welsh, Cornish, Manx, Bretons, and Galedians/Asturians not only fill libraries and castles, but also pubs, homes and our hearts. The Celtic Fling & Highland Games, as an unbridled celebration of Celtic Culture, offers a first-hand tour of these compelling cultures, saluting both traditional and contemporary Celtic heritage.

Delight your senses with the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of this rollicking Celtic celebration. Enjoy traditional pipe bands, and modern Celtic rock bands, and everything in between. Feast on delicious Celtic cuisine, fresh brewed ales, wines, ciders, and more! Join Mt Hope Estate and Winery in its 27th Annual Celtic Fling & Highland Games festivities from 11:00am to 9:30pm on June 27 and 28th.

Shirewide Updates

New Merchants, New Traffic Patterns and A New (Old) Look

Please welcome to the shire several new Full-time Merchants: Rigr Crafts and Viking Jerks Beard Care; Norsskal; Sunfeather Studios; Sweet Eloise; Emerald Music; the Vildnfri Viking Camp; and The Bard-Ware. These merchants, some of whom have been guests for a number of years, have taken the full commitment to the Faire and Festival season at Mt. Hope and we are pleased to have them join us on a permanent basis.

If you participated in or attended FlavorFest, you probably noticed a few changes happening outside the Main Gate. The Mansion itself is in the process of restoration and improvement and the enclosed porch is being re-opened and restored to its original look, while other improvements continue indoors.

The courtyard approach to the Shire has been widened and a new set of Open Gates security scanning devices have been added to speed up the security process outside the Main Entrance. New stanchions and ropes have been installed, as well as wine barrel umbrella stands for ticket scanning lanes. New traffic patterns for our guests have been developed and hard barriers added to ease congestion at the entry point.

A new EXIT Gate has been opened between Peasant Bread and the Vault. This new gate will allow for EXIT ONLY foot traffic on Faire and Festival days. The Main Gate will be ENTRANCE ONLY until the closing hour when all foot traffic is flowing out of the Shire. A hand-stamp station will be placed at the new Exit Gate, and the Exit itself now offers more direct access to the Victorian Privies for our guests and participants.

The Participant Access Gate remains at the Joust Gate people-entrance for all Faire and Festival participants entering from Participant/Employee Parking in the "Back 40." This gate will be staffed by PRF Security prior to and during operational hours, and all participants will be required to show their Participant Pass to enter.



MERCHANT PORTAL

Find a myriad of information on the day-to-day business of being a Mt. Hope Merchant by visiting:

parenfaire.com/merchantportal

The portal includes forms for Additional Participant Pass Requests and Parking Passes, as well as the updated Merchant Handbook and its Acknowledgement.

Coin of the Realm Updates

If you banked your Coin of the Realm last season, your balance will be applied to your booth fees. You will still receive an invoice, and that invoice will reflect any Coin credits you banked last season. Kings Mint processing sheets have been given a facelift and no longer feature the Jousting Knight on horseback logo. Redemption procedures remain the same as they have in the past. Please visit the Vault to exchange coin of the realm for US currency during any Festival or Faire Day during the season. When you make the exchange, you may choose to be embursed or to bank the redeemed amount for use on PRF booth, camping or other fees incurred. Coin of the Realm holds equal value to its US currency counterpart.

There is a new coin being issued for the 2026 season, and guests to the Faire and Festivals will now be able to purchase coin only in increments of \$50.

Two new Kings Mint locations will open for Celtic Fling and Faire this season, with hours to accommodate the busier times of the day. Please direct guests to the main location at the Main Gate, and to the Mausoleum and behind the Chess Stage for additional Mint services throughout the day.



2026 Coin Designs

Complimentary Tickets

4 Comps for Faire , 2 Comps for Celtic

The Complimentary Ticket Policy has been updated as of June 15, 2026.

All Full-time and Guest Merchants will receive two complimentary tickets to the Celtic Fling and Highland Games.

Full-time Merchants will receive four comp tickets to the Faire, and Guest Merchants who participate in four or more weekends of the Faire will receive four comp tickets to the Faire. Guest Merchants who participate in fewer than four weekends will receive two comp tickets to the Faire.

A link to redeem comp tickets, and to purchase a limited number of additional tickets at a discounted rate, will be provided for all Faire Merchants.

Weekend Themes

Weekend One - August 15-16
Fairies and Fantasy

Weekend Two - August 22-23
Legends of the Seas

Weekend Three - August 29-30
Heroes & Villains

Weekend Four - September 5-6
Viking Weekend

Weekend Five - September 12-13
Wizarding Weekend

Weekend Six - September 19-22
Shamrocks & Shenanigans

School Days at the Faire
September 30 & October 1

Weekend Seven - September 26-27
OktoberFest

Weekend Eight - October 3-4
Time Travellers

Weekend Nine - October 10-11
Hallowe'en Days & Spooky Knights: The conjuring of Scratchy

Weekend Ten - October 17-18
Hallowe'en Days & Spooky Knights: The Silence of Mt. Hope

Weekend Eleven - October 24-25
Hallowe'en Days & Spooky Knights: 28 Days Thither

Participant & Parking Passes

Security will be present at Access Gates

Access to the Faire grounds (the Shire) will be enforced by PRF Security Team members at the Participant Entry Gate off participatn parking and at the Front Gate.

- ALL Participants MUST show their Participant Pass for entry onto the Faire grounds and should carry their pass at all times while working onsite.
- ALL vehicles parking in Participant Parking MUST display a Parking Pass.

The Merchant business owner Must secure Participant Passes and Parking Passes for their employees. Visit the Merchant Portal to request Parking Passes, and additional Participant Passes.

Overnight parking is not available to employees of merchants unless booth camping has been approved for the merchant's booth.

Booth Camping must be registered with the Merchant Coordinator

Trailer Parking Changes

In a effort to provide more patron parking along the southern edge of the 'Back 40,' a new parking area for trailers is being created at The Farm opposite the exit onto Mountain Rd.

The new Farm Trailer Parking is available on Faire weekends at a cost of \$25/ weekend to Merchants and Guest Merchants with oversize vehicles and trailers. Trailers must leave the lot after each weekend to be considered Weekend Parking.

Seasonal (July 1-December 31) and Annual (January 1-December 31) storage of trailers can be arranged for a fee Find more trailer parking details and information on weekend and longterm trailer storage at The Farm in the Merchant Portal.

Trailer Parking for Celtic Fling will be in the Overflow Lot next to the Pirates area of the Back-40.

Please follow all instructions and directions when parking vehicles and stowing trailers for the coming festival weekend.