



EL FIRÓ

On the 11th May 1561, the town of Sóller was attacked by a group of Turkish- Algerian pirates. This kind of events were very common in the Majorca of the XVI century and most of the times the villages were totally destroyed and defeated. However, this time things were different and Sóller was able to fend off the attack and beat the invaders. Afterwards, and due to this great achievement, the town of Sóller decided to commemorate the event annually. Until 1884 the celebrations were based on religious activities and a procession where the Virgin Mare de Deu de la Victoria had all the relevance.

It was in 1885 when the Town hall decided to add a new event to the celebration, a simulation of the 11th May 1561 attack. The day for this event was chosen and it was decided that it would be on the Monday following the second Sunday of May, day when the Agricultural fair was celebrated in the town.

Since that day, we celebrate what has been called El Firó. On this day, the local people commemorate and celebrate their victory against the pirates. Through the years, new and important elements have been introduced such as the role of the Valentes Dones- the Brave Women, the battles in Port de Sóller, the looting in the main square... From the 1990's on, with the entrance of the Firó Groups (Pirates and Peasants) the celebration has been a big popular success and at the same time the

different events of the current Firó have been formalized. The Firó begins at 10 am with a flower offering at the Monument located at the Desviament Road. After that, a mess is celebrated at Can Tamany houses where the legend says the Valentès Dones (The Brave Women) lived. It's not until 3 pm that the events of the simulation truly begin, with Capità Angelats speech on the one hand and the gathering of the pirate troops in the Port on the other hand. In Port de Sóller there are then two different battles, one of them happening in Es Traves and the other one in Can Repic beach. After that there is a third battle in the area called Es Pont den Barona. The final act is the looting in Soller's main square with the local peasants defeating the pirates. The victory is then proclaimed by Capità Angelats with a final poem. The celebrations finish with all the people gathered there singing La balanguera and then the image of the Virgin Mare de Deu de la Victoria is placed in the church La Sang de l'Hospital.