

Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival Programme 2022

EVENTS ON RATHLIN ISLAND

(See separate programme for events in Ballycastle)

www.rathlinsoundmaritimefestival.com

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Every Day - 09.00 to 17.00.

Rathlin Boathouse Visitor's Centre open 9am to 5pm everyday throughout the festival.

Dip into Rathlin's rich history with a collection of displays, photographs, images and articles - Free.

Enjoy all that Rathlin has to offer

Friday 27th May

13:30

Boat Blessing Rathlin

At the Festival's beginning, time to reflect on the awesome nature of the sea that surrounds us, all it gives – and takes, to invoke a blessing for our boats and for wisdom, respect and safety for all who travel on or work with the sea. Pier 1

(At the end of the day, the ferries will leave for Ballycastle in their usual scheduled departures from Rathlin and will participate in the Blessing in Ballycastle and the laying of a wreath in Ballycastle Bay in memory of all who have lost their lives at sea. Ferries will then return to Rathlin approximately approx 20.00 TBC)

Saturday 28th May

21.00

Going Bats with Irene and Dave -

Bat walk with introductory talk (LIFE Raft*)

Richard Branson Centre. Weather dependent.

Sunday 29th May

Afternoon –

The Drontheims will arrive on Rathlin.

13.30 – 14.30

Rathlin Singers – an hour of song and musical entertainment, a new programme of Rathlin voices and musicians blending in harmony in the beautiful acoustic setting of St Thomas's Church - Free .

13.45

Foraging Tour

Join local guide Ksenia on a leisurely walk across the Rathlin shoreline and rockpools while learning about the different sea life that makes Rathlin its home. Ksenia has, for the last sixteen years collected and cooked with the natural produce that grows along the rocky shoreline of Rathlin Island” £20pp.

Book online – www.Nineglensadventuretours.co.uk or at Ballycastle Visitor Information Centre (VIC).

Evening

Model Yacht Race –

Stroll down to the beautiful Ushet Lough in Rathlin’s Lower End for a traditional model yacht race. These races have taken place on Rathlin for many years, with hand-carved wooden boats set to sail a course across the lough and back. Enjoy the scenery and the skill and a beautiful display of traditional model yachts, along with the setting sun (we hope) in a beautiful, picturesque setting.

Ushet Lough - Free.

Monday 30th May

15.00

Seabirds of Rathlin - Ric Else and Hazel Watson, resident photographers and wildlife experts, bring images of local seabirds, followed by a screening of Seabird Summer. For a foretaste, follow Ric and Hazel on Twitter, @_Stickybeak Manor House.

19.30

Pub Quiz in aid of Red Bay Lifeboat 50th Anniversary

While we play on the sea and by its shore, others keep watch, prepared to put their own lives at risk to save those of others. Build a team, answer a few questions, and help support the Red Bay Lifeboat teams. McCuaig’s Bar.

Tuesday 31st May

08.00

‘A morning of Mothing’ -

An early morning insight into Rathlin’s nocturnal nature. Join enthusiastic ‘mothers’ Ric Else and Hazel Watson (Stickybeak, on Twitter) to discover what moths have visited their light traps overnight. Stickybeak have recorded over 230 moth species on Rathlin, including many spectacular and colourful moths like the striking Garden Tiger, lurid pink Elephant Hawkmoth, and the large fuzzy Poplar Hawkmoth. Manor House front garden.

All day

LIFE Raft Gazebo – international wildlife and Rathlin

Not everything travels to and from Rathlin by boat. Some of it flies and flutters for more miles than most of us travel in a year! The Seafront.

12.00

“Up high, down low” - Streetwise Community Circus’s Jim Webster, with Babcock and Bobbins Clowning about on the seafront - look and listen, you’ll find them if they don’t find you first! - Seafront

15.00 Stories of an Iraqi refugee at home in Ireland - Abood Al Jamaili From fleeing war and not having any English to becoming the first AIG Dublin GAA Ambassador, graduating in Law with the ambition of becoming an Irish diplomat! - Manor House.

21.00

Going Bats with Irene and Dave -

Bat walk with introductory talk (LIFE Raft*)

Richard Branson Centre. Weather dependent.

Wednesday 1st June

All Day

Biodiversity Gazebo – more insight into the incredible biodiversity and environmental splendour of this island, and how we, and others, can play a part to give it the best opportunity to thrive - with LIFE Raft crew. The Seafront.

Wednesday 1st June - Sunday 5th June:

“Static Stones” - Treasure Hunt –

call in to the Rathlin Co-op shop for an information sheet of painted stones with maritime movie themes. Then it’s up to you - find and follow the trail, complete the sheets and bring them back to the shop for a prize draw on Sunday at 3pm. All winners receive a scrumptious drink of hot chocolate.

15.00

Rathlin Oral history – an opportunity to learn more of the stories of the Rathlin lighthouse keepers, their families, and those who supported them before automation. This fascinating and moving project is part of an ongoing commitment of a Rathlin team to gather oral history from and about the island to protect and pass on for future generations. Come and learn, and share stories you may have yourselves of our lighthouse history. Manor House.

19.00 – 21-00

Murder Mystery – Whodunit?

It might even have been you! Sign up, join in and find out ... The Pub. Booking essential – phone 07876662942. Charge £10 includes Murder Mystery pack, finger foods and a drink.

21.00

Ska and Reggae disco -

Cormac “Buzz” Ó Briain.

McCuaig’s Bar.

Thursday 2nd June

From 11.30

Maritime Twists and Tales exhibition with Dr Maxim Fomin (Ulster University) Manor House.

14.00 – 16.00

Maritime skills, Rope throwing, etc

Seafront gazebo with Causeway Coast Maritime Heritage Group.

14.30

2 pipers & 2 storytellers

Cormac “Buzz” Ó Briain and friends. The two pipers weave uilleann pipe music through their stories with stories inspired by the music itself and the mysterious world of Na Daoine Sidhe (fairies).

The Seafront or McCuaig’s Bar as wet weather alternative.

16.00 – 19.00

Causeway Maritime Heritage Group Conference: Manor House Talks and conversation – Dr Maxim Fomin (UU), Dr Wes Forsythe (UU), plus local maritime historian. Manor House. All welcome

Friday 3rd June

10.30 – 12.00

Maritime Twists and Tales exhibition with Dr Maxim Fomin (Ulster University) Manor House or Richard Branson Centre

Various times

Friday afternoon to Sunday midday

Vikings – The Sea Dragon Vikings return to the island once again hauling their evocative imagery of the longboat, swords and helmets and, over the weekend, some mock (we hope) fighting along the beach.

15.00

History of Traditional music

From the days of the harp to the present day. Cormac “Buzz” Ó Briain delivers an illustrated and intriguing insight into the world of traditional Irish music, covering, instruments, rhythms and history of the music.

The Manor House

Angling competition Church Bay, details to be announced

Various Times

Sea Shanty singers “Hooks and Crookes”

Shantymen based in Waterford. Their name comes from the Cromwellian saying, ‘of getting there by Hook or by Crooke’. Hook and Crooke are the name of the headlands on either side of Waterford Harbour.

Seafront, out and about – weather dependent.

Afternoon

Drontheim fleet arrive on Rathlin.

20.30 to close

Belfast Wren Boys, seasoned musicians having performed their traditional music throughout the world with a recent tour of China under their belts. McCuaig's Bar.

Various times

Mobile bandstand out and about on seafront all weekend, from Friday afternoon, with a medley of intrepid musicians – cycle power needed and all welcome.

Various Times

Have a go Kayaking

Friday evening, Saturday (all day), Sunday morning. Charge applicable, book with provider on the day. The Beach.

Saturday 4th June

Various times

Mobile bandstand as per Friday.

Various times

Causeway Coast Maritime Heritage Group (CCGMHT)

Traditional boat display of Colmcille, Dronthiem and Currachs. With opportunity to have a go for £5 per person for non-members. Pay and book at pontoon on the day.

Various Times

Vikings –The Sea Dragon Vikings return to the island once again hauling their evocative imagery of the longboat, swords and helmets and, over the weekend, some mock (we hope) fighting along the beach.

Various Times

Sea Shanty singers, "Hooks and Crookes" -

as per Friday.

Various Times

Vikings including re-enactments and taster sessions.

10.00 – 16.00

Life on the seashore - (CEDaR)

Come and meet some of the amazing marine life that finds a home along Rathlin's shores – the exhibition gazebo comes complete with a family-friendly marine biologist, Justin Judge, expert in all creatures marine.

An excellent opportunity to learn about this wildlife wonderland and how we might treat it with kindness.
Seafront exhibition gazebo.

11.00 - 16.00

National Museums NI –

Marine Display at The Seafront.

13.00

Doggie dress-up competition

(all dogs must be on a lead)

The event will include an introduction to a LIFE Raft Biosecurity dog. The Beach.

14.00

Comhaltas – Traditional music group.

McCuaig's Bar - inside or out depending on weather.

15.00 – 16.30

Ulster Wildlife best practice shark tagging training. Ballycastle VIC, Portnagree House -Free

For more information and to book - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ulster-wildlife-best-practice-shark-tagging-training-tickets-339929226467>

Various times

Kites (if wind allows!) and other activities with children & young people - seafront (courtesy of Fiona Nelson and EA Youth Service).

Early evening

“No Craic” traditional music session – McCuaig's Bar.

20.00

“Good morning to your nightcap”

Traditional music band to round off the afternoon - hopefully in glorious weather outside McCuaig's Bar.

Sunday 5th June

Various times

Mobile bandstand around and about – enterprising musicians welcome.

Morning, departing early afternoon

Vikings – a last chance to be captured by the friendlier side of marauders with swords and spears, and their beautiful boat, the Sea Dragon.

Various Times

Round to the Rue guided walk and Paddle & Play Paddleboarding Session

Walking/Foraging Tours are £20 per person

Paddle boarding sessions are £30 per adult and £20 per child.

Book at www.nineglensadventuretours.co.uk or Ballycastle VIC.

All day

Sand sculpting, youth activities, kites etc with Youth Service, The Seafront.

Various times

Sea Shanties - "Hooks and Crookes" will be joined by (or compete with?) the "Selkies", Shantywomen from Portaferry.

From approx. 12.00

BIG Lunch - Join the biggest picnic on the island; help us out by bringing something to share – pastas, breads, and fruit, anything decently edible.

This will be our first Big Lunch for a couple of difficult years and serves to remind us how dependent on our neighbours we really are throughout the year, giving everyone a chance to repay a kindness to those we know or make new friends for the future. Bring some food to share for a chat on the seafront and watch what happens in the Bay (sponsored by LIFE Raft).

13.00 - 14.00

Rathlin Regatta – Sails and Oars together – or perhaps in competition. Church Bay.

14.00 - 15.00

Raft Race - make your own and join in, or watch from the shore side as others paddle their way furiously across the harbour against other rafts – and the demands of bailing out.

14.00 - 16.00

Disco night with DJ Stewart, McCuaig's Bar.

15.00 Static Stones Prize Draw

All winners receive a scrumptious hot chocolate. Rathlin Co-Op.

(LIFE Raft - biodiversity recovery project, Rathlin Acting for Tomorrow, funded by EU LIFE, National Lottery Heritage Fund and DAERA).*

Important Information applying to all events

Please note a number of the activities in this programme are weather dependent and subject to change. For updates please check Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival Social Media or festival office at seafront in Ballycastle, Ballycastle Visitor Information Centre or Rathlin Boathouse Visitor's Centre.

Details correct at time of going to print. For up to date information during the festival visit the RSMF Facebook page.

- All children must be accompanied by an adult at all events.
- Events may be photographed or filmed and used on future publicity.
- Follow the instructions of the event stewards at all times
- We hope you enjoy our maritime programme