

CORK HARBOUR FESTIVAL

Boats & Bites 2017

Ladies and gentlemen, we are delighted to include the event 'Boats & Bites' as part of this year's Cork Harbour Festival again. The event will take place on Saturday 3rd June, with public access from 2pm until 6pm.

This year the Festival will be bigger and better than ever. Now in its third year, Cork Harbour Festival includes events and activities happening in Cork City as well as 17 towns and villages along Cork Harbour. We are proud to say that the festival will feature over 60 different events while collaborating with over 40 event partners.

The Cork Harbour Open Day will launch the festival at the bank holiday weekend, with a cornucopia of activities and events happening on the day, and on the following weekend the Ocean to City – An Rás Mór and accompanying activities plan to take over the Port of Cork site from Thursday night and on to the weekend. We will circulate the full festival programme of activities and events in early May.



Rupert Hugh Jones, (Farmers' markets in Mahon, Wilton and elsewhere), who looked after the seafood market last year has agreed to host this part of the activities again after the great success of last year.

The Port of Cork has kindly offered the use of their site in the city once again.

Meitheal Mara host the Cork Harbour Festival in partnership with the Port of Cork, Cork City Council and Cork County Council, and with support from MaREI, RCYC, IMERC, Cobh Tourism and many others.



The proposal

The basic concept for the 'Boats & Bites' event is to offer the public an insight into all that is available on the water in Cork Harbour and its environs. The target audience is anyone with an interest in the water, but in particular those who are not familiar with the range of activities available on the water in the region.



As with last year, the plan is that the Port of Cork site will be made available to clubs, organisations and interested groups to promote themselves for one evening in the city centre.



Insurance

Space will be provided for 'exhibitors' to sell themselves to the public, with Insurance covered by Meitheal Mara/ Port of Cork/ Sea Food Market, for shore based activities, and with clubs/organisations providing boat access to the public, doing so under their own club/ organisation insurance.

Shore Based Exhibits

We would ask exhibitors to bring any tables/ props they need with them, as there is very limited availability on site. There is plenty of space, so it would be possible to bring kayaks/ dinghies, or similar equipment into the site for display purposes, if required. Some limited parking for exhibitors/ market staff will be available by arrangement, on the Northern Quay.

We will circulate a full list of those attending within the coming weeks, once we have initial confirmation.



Water Based Display / Activity

As we did last year, we would hope to be able to get as many as possible of the public an opportunity to get on the water on the night!

Meitheal Mara will facilitate by controlling public access to the marina at the Port of Cork and issue buoyancy aids to people using the marina.

We have commitments from many of last year's groups to bring the public out again for tasters, offering 15 minute introductory trips, to introduce members of the public to the water.



There will be a selection of boats on display, with some available for trips and some available for viewing. We would encourage you to facilitate members of the public an experience of being on the water, or to allow guests aboard for a look.

Once the public are handed into your care, we would expect operators and clubs to cover the public on your own insurances, in order to keep the insurance and event costs to a minimum. A list of participants will be kept by Meitheal Mara volunteers and all will be asked to sign a disclaimer before accessing the Marina to encourage responsible behaviour.

Rescue boat cover will be arranged to provide support to the event, both on and off the water.

We would love to see a few more of the historic ships from Cork Harbour on the pontoon this year, even if they are not for public trips of tours but just to see plenty of colour on the water! In the last couple of years we were joined by Peel Castle, the Spirit of Oysterhaven and Elsie, all important sailing craft in Cork's Maritime History, and fantastic to see in the City Centre.



Boats & Bites 2017

If you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can plan the space we need and make arrangements for the evening.

There is no cost involved, but the event is being run as a fundraiser for the RNLI again, and any donations would be welcome through Meitheal Mara, or directly to the RNLI on the night. With any luck we should have an RNLI craft on display this year, subject to normal operational considerations.

If you would like to be represented, but are not in a position to bring any material or any display, Meitheal Mara will man a 'general information' table too where you could leave your flyers/ cards/ posters and we will do our best to distribute. Bring along friends/ family/ members of your club to meet others with a passion for the water!

If you have any special requirements, please talk to us and we will see if we can help.

Contact

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Please complete the attached form as soon as possible so we get full details on all attending and participating.

We look forward to seeing you in June!

