



24th May to 2nd June 2024

Programme

RATHLIN ISLAND



www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com

Email: ballycastle.vic@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Tel: Ballycastle Visitor Information Centre (028) 2076 2024



Rathlin Development & Community Association





24th May to 2nd June 2024

EVENTS ON RATHLIN ISLAND

(See separate programme for events in Ballycastle)

Important Information applying to all activities

Please note a number of the activities in this programme are weather dependent and subject to change.

Details correct at time of going to print.

For updates during the festival please check Rathlin Sound Festival Social Media or festival office at seafront in Ballycastle, Ballycastle Visitor Information Centre or Rathlin Boathouse Visitor's Centre.

All children must be accompanied by an adult at all events.
Events may be photographed or filmed and used on future publicity.
Please follow the instructions of the event stewards at all times

We hope you enjoy our Festival programme!

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All week

“Poetry of Ocean” - West Light Visitor Centre (RSPB): Poetry competition all week with poems (new and old) displayed at the West Light Centre.

Bunting and printmaking: After the popular success of last year’s bunting, more original prints will be created to sit alongside previous pieces. Made, prepared, and hung by the community in time for the festival beginning.

Yarn Bombing: Rathlin residents will yarn bomb the harbour area for the Festival. Woollen catch-of-the-day fish, handmade by local talent in a riot of crochet colour brightening up the fences and posts.

Red Herring Hunt: The yarn bombers of Rathlin have put together a treasure hunt looking for the red herring, a piece created in yarn-bombing preparation sessions. Hunt information sheets will be available in the Boat House Museum and Visitor Information Centre, the Bar and the Manor House (and possibly elsewhere!) throughout the 10 days of the Festival.

Architects of Change Graffiti walls: A showcase of primary school children's artwork inspired by environmental topics they have learnt during a six-week programme facilitated by the Architects of Change project team as part of the Future Island-Island project on Rathlin Island. Church of the Immaculate Conception

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RATHLIN ISLAND

Friday 24th May

13.30 Blessing of the Boats, Rathlin including the launch of Colmcille. A pause for reflection, as we start the festival, of the maritime environment that surrounds us, those who make a living from it, and the beauty and challenges the seas can bring. Rathlin Pier 1.

Saturday 25th May

14.30 – Eamonn Flynn in Concert with Special guest Michael Black.

Unique concert celebrating Rathlin's generational connections to the world renowned Irish musical Black family. St. Thomas's Church, Rathlin Island – Free.

Sunday 26th May

14.30 – Musical legacy of the Black family of Rathlin

Michael Black provides a multi-media presentation of the musical heritage and legacy of this unique Rathlin family at the Manor House – Free.

16.00 – “If you can hum it, you can sing it” Michael Black Singing Workshop in Richard Branson Centre – Free.



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Monday 27th May

1pm – “Setting sails”: A chance to enjoy traditional crafts and skills as islanders and friends match sailing skills to the wind and race our unique, hand-made model yachts - Ushet Lough.

6pm “Grey Fox goes fishing”: Angling competition with island skipper, Fergus McFaul. (Tackle provided.) Leave from pontoons on Grey Fox.

Tuesday 28th May

Causeway Coast Maritime & Heritage Group bring you taster Sessions with Colmcille for LIFE Raft and Rathlin Primary School. Rathlin Island.

11.30am, 13.30pm & 15.30pm “Tower of Rathlin”

Tour of the East Lighthouse, and opportunity to hear of a community vision for the future of the site.

14.30 - “Wildlife in focus”: Illustrated presentation by Tom McDonnell, Rathlin islander and award-winning wildlife photographer. St. Thomas’s

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Wednesday 29th May

Causeway Coast Maritime & Heritage Group bring you taster Sessions with Colmcille for LIFE Raft and Rathlin Primary School. Rathlin Island.

13.00 - Lunchtime Concert with Wendy Jack and Tuned In Collective at St. Thomas's – Free.

14.30 – Sustainable Living from the Sea – Island Fishing Family talk by Benji McFaul with heritage experiences of sustainable sea-farming and insights into research and developments partnerships, in Richard Branson Centre – Free.

16.00 – “Sonic Sea” 1 hr documentary brought to you by International Fund for Animal Welfare. Sound is essential to the survival and prosperity of whales, dolphins and other marine species. Learn about the man-made underwater noise threatening this fragile world. Richard Branson Centre.

19.00 – 1 hr film Nets of Memory and Q&A presented by Dr. Ryan Lash (Notre Dame University): Maritime heritage film with a moving exploration of the personal challenges of Irish island emigration. At Richard Branson Centre – Free.

20.30 Pub Quiz. Round of the day with this pub quiz in aid of RNLI, the charity that saves lives at sea. McCuaig's Bar.

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Thursday 30th May

Life Raft gazebo at The Seafront.

12.00 – 12.30 Join Sarah Hardy, a professional yoga teacher for some gentle yoga suitable for all. At the beach – Free.

Causeway Coast Maritime & Heritage Group bring you taster Sessions with Colmcille for LIFE Raft and Rathlin Primary School. Rathlin Island.

13.30 - “Down low, up high” (part 1):

Ever popular Streetwise Circus provide a professional workshop of circus skills training for all ages. The Seafront.

14.30 - Awakening sustainable pasts: An island of maritime stories: (Rathlin oral history and Future Island-Island teams). Maxim Fomin (UU) will talk about folklore and the sea, Wes Forsythe (UU) about the Madill collection and historic boats, Jessica Bates (UU and Rathlin resident) on recent oral history material from Rathlin, and two members of the Future Island-Island Design team will share their work in bringing new life to these stories. There will also be pop-up stands, light box, and slide presentations. St. Thomas’s Church

18.30 - “Down low, up high” (part 2):

An evening with the Streetwise Circus team’s providing skilful stilt coaching, and the added involvement of some of Rathlin’s young people previously trained by this professional team. The Seafront.

19.30 - Where the stories lie: The working title of a new book by Ian Stephen, just accepted for publication. An evening of interview and discussion, comparing and retelling inherited narratives along the Celtic Sea route, with stories from the forthcoming book. Richard Branson Centre.



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Friday 31st May

Morning – Boatlines: Poetry workshop with Ian Stephen Necessary and sufficient” at Manor House – Free.

12.00 – 12.30 Beach Yoga with Sarah Hardy – Free.

Causeway Coast Maritime & Heritage Group bring you taster Sessions with Colmcille for LIFE Raft and Rathlin Primary School. Rathlin Island.

14.00 - Boatlines: Model boat building with Stornoway artist, Christine Morrison, using templates of the traditional drontheim boats (see some real ones in the harbour). Richard Branson Centre.

13.30 – Down Low, Up High (part 3). Join Streetwise Circus for entertainment on stilts will round up an audience for an internationally recognised street from show, “Babcock and Bobbins”, followed by an afternoon circus skills workshop. The Seafront – Free.

16.00 – 16.30 - Join Sarah Hardy, a professional yoga teacher for some gentle yoga suitable for all. At the beach – Free.

19.00 - “SPARR/RIVET”: The story of The Sons of the Blind Woman

Linking traditions of the Hebrides and Ireland with the lore of the shipyards - a 1 hr film (with subtitles) and live storytelling. Introduced/hosted by Ian Stephen and Christine Morrison. Richard Branson Centre, 7pm



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Saturday 1st June

All day – **The Sea Dragon Vikings** return to the island once again hauling their evocative imagery of the longboat, swords and helmets while throwing in some mock fighting along the beach.

All day – **CCMHG Taster row on the Colmcille.**

All day – **Dromtheim Regatta** – Red sails in the water.

All day – **Taster sessions on the Drontheims.**

All day – **Rope Throwing** on the beach.

All Day – **Oar Making** with newly qualified boat builder, Orlagh Thomson.

All Day - **Klampit**, the recycling lobster: Paddy Bloomer's firm favourite installation on the seafront resurrected and back in action.

All day – **LIFE Raft gazebo** at The Seafront.

All day – **Future Island-Island gazebo** at The Seafront.

All day – **Pop-up Gaeltacht** at The Seafront

All day – **Education Authority** – Youth-led activities at The Seafront and Beach.

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Rathlin Island Saturday 1st June Continued ...

11.00 – 15.30 – Ulster Wildlife Underwater VR experience – Free.

11.00 – 15.30 – Council Biodiversity Officer Bug Hotel and Do-It-Yourself Nature Trail – Free.

11.00 – 16.00 Have a go Kayaking (30-minute sessions, allow 1 hour) from Harbour slipway, booking through provider on the day. Suitable for all ages – Free.

11.00 – 16.00 Have a go Paddleboarding (30-minute sessions, allow 1 hour). Suitable for all ages – Free.

12.00 – 12.30 Beach Yoga with Sarah Hardy – Free.

Meet the dog: Our very special guest, Woody, the new biosecurity dog and learn about his work with the LIFE Raft team. LIFE Raft is Rathlin's project to remove non-native predator species for the recovery and strengthening of island biodiversity.

11.30 - Doggie Dress-up: Bring your dog all dressed up to the nines (in the best possible taste) and see who wins. The Seafront.

Drontheim Regatta on Rathlin Island – timing subject to tide and participants

Afternoon - Regatta of sails and oars: The resident and visiting fleet of traditional boats will set out into Church Bay : You might see the traditional boats getting ready in the harbour. If the weather allows, you'll see the red sails and a small eclectic flotilla of boats. Harbour and Church Bay.

Afternoon - Boatlines: As the climax of the poetry and model boat building workshops with Ian Stephen and Christine Morrison, Christine will lead the small flotilla of model drontheims with sails adorned with poetry, for a launch into the inner Church Bay.

Afternoon Rathlin Regatta and Boatlines (cont'd.) Model boats setting sails in Church Bay (Christine Morrison & Ian Stephen) – Free.

Tunes at sea (Rathlin Axhedental Arts & Rathlin Culture & Arts – on a boat) – Free.



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Rathlin Island Saturday 1st June Continued ...

14.00 – Comhaltas music group:

Back with us for their equally traditional, and most welcome, Rathlin afternoon of entertaining. McCuaig's Bar - inside or out depending on weather.

16.00 – 16.30 - Join Sarah Hardy, a professional yoga teacher for some gentle yoga suitable for all. At the beach – Free.

21.00 - Stewart's disco:

Still much more than a DJ...the music will be good, and varied, and, in between, you might get a chat with him. Have a fun evening, drink and dance. McCuaig's Pub





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Sunday 2nd June

All day – **LIFE Raft gazebo** at The Seafront.

All day – **Future Island-Island gazebo** at The Seafront.

All day – **Pop-up Gaeltacht** at The Seafront.

All day – **Education Authority** – Youth-led activities at The Seafront and Beach.

Afternoon - The Causeway Shantymen make a welcome return to the island. See them, hear them, around and about the harbour (and maybe further afield) during the day.

11.00 – 16.00 Have a go Kayaking (30-minute sessions, allow 1 hour) from Harbour slipway, booking through provider on the day. Suitable for all ages – Free

11.00 – 16.00 Have a go Paddleboarding (30-minute sessions, allow 1 hour). Suitable for all ages – Free.

11.00 – Portrush to the Poles: Matthew Neil, skipper of the RRS Sir David Attenborough, will talk about his experience of starting out in Portrush yacht club and becoming skipper on the UK's polar explorer and science vessel. He will share his experiences in the polar regions and explains some of the scientific work the ship is supporting. Manor House.

Rathlin Island Sunday 2nd June Continued ...

11.00 – 15.00 Tob-Ghaeltacht, Logainmneacha agus Ealaín do pháistí, Pop-up Gaeltacht, Place-names and Art for children. Fáilte roimh chách sa phuball Gaeilge. Labhair Gaeilge, faigh amach faoi logainmneacha áitiúla agus thig leis na páistí ealaín na farraige a dhéanamh. All welcome to the Irish language gazebo. You can use your cúpla focal or find out more about local place-names and the children can do some fun seaside themed art activities. Brought to you by Glór na Maoile, Irish language community group in Ballycastle with support from Conradh na Gaeilge, 'Ciste Spreagtha'.

12.00 – 12.45 Last chance to join Sarah Hardy, a professional yoga teacher for some gentle yoga suitable for all. At the beach – Free.

12.00 – 14.00 BIG Lunch:

Join the biggest picnic on the island; help us out by bringing something to share – pastas, breads, fruit, etc. Have a chat with friends and strangers, giving everyone a chance to repay a kindness to those we know or our new friends while you munch on lunch (generously sponsored and hosted by LIFE Raft). The Seafront

14.00 - Raft Race:

Make your own and join in or watch from the shore side as adventurous participants vigorously paddle their way in various directions around the harbour in competition with other rafts. Walking may be possible but means disqualification. Sign up with Charlie on the day or before if you can find her. Rathlin harbour.

Drontheim Regatta on Rathlin Island – timing subject to tide and participants.

Afternoon - Wee currach racing.

14.00 – 15.00 - “Sunday with Stew”:

A finale of music as a lively background for the festival’s closing afternoon, provided from the eclectic tastes of Stewart Geddes. The Seafront.

Please note that a number of the activities in this programme are weather dependent and subject to change. For updates, please check Rathlin Sound Festival social media.

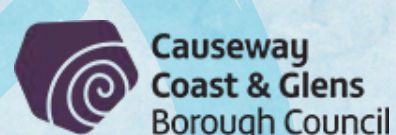


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