

Set sail for Maritime Festival

As we (near / fast approach) the June Bank Holiday weekend, it's that time again for the Docklands Maritime Festival (29th May -1st June) which offers something for all the family and all ages too. The festival will host an exciting line-up of Tall-Ships and for the first time in the festival's sixth year, the flotilla is to grace both north and south quays.

The main feature of the festival will be the visiting Tall-Ships which are arriving from

several European countries to join the Liffey's very own Jeanie Johnston, adding further to the romance of the seas and combining a cosmopolitan yet relaxed atmosphere during the four-day festival.

This spectacular fleet of six tall-ships is headed by the Jubilee Sailing Trust's impressive Lord Nelson, which is designed to enable people with disabilities to sail. She is 42 meters long and has 18 sails. Other overseas visitors include the Atlantis, a former lightship built in 1905, the Eendracht, a Dutch-built training vessel and Loth Loriën, a Norwegian three-masted schooner built in 1907.

Also making the voyage to the festival is the elegant tall ship, Kathleen & May. At 109

years old, she is the only wooden triple-masted sailing schooner still in existence and is unique among 60 famous tall ships listed on the UK's National Register of Historic Vessels.

Kathleen & May is calling to Dublin with a commercial cargo of Fair Wind Wine from France and will stay as a festival visitor. There will be wine tasting onboard and also an opportunity to 'wine and dine' at competitive prices. All the tall-ships visiting the festival will have an admission charge.

In addition the festival will have the city's largest outdoor market with stalls displaying a wide selection of gourmet goodies and crafts. There will also be a variety of street entertainment offering a great mix of old favourites as well as new attractions to enjoy.

George's Dock will be the place to be for all the festival's little visitors - from carousels, the helter skelter and crazy golf there is something to bring a smile to all faces! These attractions are free of admission and is presented by the Dublin Docklands Authority in association with Failte Ireland.

The Liffey River Taxi will be in service ferrying visitors across the river. Also, the Liffey River Cruise will be in operation offering closer views of the new Samuel Beckett Bridge which is moored on a pontoon on the south quay.



The tall ship *Kathleen & May* carrying a cargo of Fair Wind Wine from France and staying as a festival visitor.