



# STRANGFORD LOUGH MARITIME FESTIVAL

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**Saturday 31st May and  
Sunday 1st June  
2014**

Celebrating Strangford Lough  
and Lecale's ancient and modern  
maritime traditions, world renowned  
wildlife and stunning landscape.

Lots of FREE activities for all the family.

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Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership –  
working with people for our heritage

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[www.strangfordlough.org](http://www.strangfordlough.org)



**Strangford Lough  
& Lecale Partnership**

# STRANGFORD LOUGH

Picturesque Portaferry and Strangford, linked by the ferry crossing the exceptionally beautiful and fast-flowing waters of the Narrows, are the setting for the 2014 Strangford Lough Maritime Festival.

Historic shorefronts, medieval tower houses, Queen's University Marine Laboratory, the shore, a historic graveyard and bell-tower, a village green, and the Exploris aquarium and park are among the exceptional venues for family events spanning our heritage past and present.

This year the Vikings are back with ferocious battles, beautifully crafted long ships and lively trading in their market. For the first time you can witness and take part in a dramatic procession for a warrior slain in battle. His body and that of his wife will then be burned with his long-ship following the tradition of a Viking funeral.

This Festival is remarkable for the opportunity it provides to meet historians, archaeologists, scientists and other specialists who are delighted to share the wonders of this area. We thank them and all our local volunteers for their contribution.

Once more EnAlgae have helped to sponsor the Festival. Delve into their seaweed garden or take a trip out with them on a boat to see how they are growing seaweed on long-lines in the Lough.

EnAlgae brings together 19 partners and 14 observers from seven European countries. Their goal is to reduce CO2 emissions and fossil fuels dependence in the region. Academic, business and research centres are working altogether in the growing, harvesting and processing of algae, to turn it into biomass and bio fuels. EnAlgae is an INTERREG IVB funded North West European network with a pilot site at Queen's University Marine Laboratory, which is experimenting with growing kelp seaweed as a source of bioenergy.

Seaweed has historically been harvested in Strangford Lough, and combined with the Lough's prime location in Northern Ireland for developing marine renewable energy, it is the perfect place to test seaweed cultivation for commercial scale production – over 90% of people in Northern Ireland support seaweed biomass for bioenergy!

The Festival also marks the Turn O' The Tide programme of activities celebrating our maritime and coastal heritage, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

# MARITIME FESTIVAL 2014



**Festival information available at:**  
**[www.strangfordlough.org](http://www.strangfordlough.org)**

**Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership,**  
No. 1 The Square, Portaferry BT22 1LW  
Tel: 028 4272 9005 / 8886 (Mon-Fri) only  
e-mail: [admin@strangfordlough.org](mailto:admin@strangfordlough.org)

All children (under 12) must be accompanied by a responsible adult at events. Please check our website for up to date details prior to visiting as event details and locations may be subject to change.

**Portaferry Tourist Information Centre**  
Tel: 028 4272 9882  
(Open Mon-Sat 10am to 5pm. Sun 1pm to 5pm)

Organised by the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership, sponsored by EnAlgae and with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Ards Borough Council and Down District Council.

# VIKINGS!

The Lough was named ‘Strangr Fjordr’ by 9th century Vikings who rowed into the fierce currents of the Narrows in long ships.

They carried out short blitzkriegs in Strangford in the 9th and 10th centuries and established short-term settlements. Many interbred with the native Irish and settled here, setting up trade links with the homeland. Their longboats had a huge influence on boat design in Strangford, and their legacy lives on in the name Strangford.

The Magnus Viking Association authentically recreate the lifestyle and events of that turbulent time and share their own tremendous knowledge and love of all things Viking.

## Medieval Street Market

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

Castle Yard, Portaferry. Free.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional Viking medieval street market, from leather workers and herbalists to weapon makers and entertainers. Spinning & weaving, dyeing with plants, herb & wild plants, a variety of hand crafts selling carved wood, bone etc., traditional leather worker, black smith, Viking gaming table, Viking cooked food stall, handmade children’s Viking swords and shields, rune reader and much, much more.

## Become a Viking

Hosted by Ards Arts Centre

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

Castle Yard, Portaferry. Free.

Get the children armoured up to do battle Viking style, with swords, shields and Viking helmets! They will need them to beat off the fierce warriors that have taken over the Park!

## Tall Tales and Viking Long Ships

Sat 31st May, 1pm to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

Portaferry Shorefront and Exploris Park. Free.

Climb aboard a reconstructed Viking long ship and meet the Viking warriors. Listen to their stories and ask anything you ever wanted to know about Vikings – if you dare! The storytelling sessions with Viking myths and legends are only suitable for children aged 7+.

All children under 12 MUST to be accompanied by a responsible adult.



## Viking Warfare

Sat 31st May, 12 noon to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

Exploris Park, Portaferry. Free.

Feel the fury of the battlefield as the Vikings demonstrate their weaponry and techniques. Join in the junior battle drills and face the Vikings yourselves!

## Viking Archery

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 1pm to 5pm.

Exploris Park Portaferry. Small Charge.

The Vikings used archery for hunting prey and also in battle – often firing them from their long ships as they approached land. Come and test your skill and see how good you are at picking off a target!

## Viking Warrior Funeral Procession

Sat 31st May, 5:45pm to 6:30pm.

Exploris Park, Portaferry. Free.

Join the procession from the battlefield to the shore and back as a Viking warrior, slain in battle is honoured before his body and that of his wife are burned ceremoniously aboard his long ship.

# VIKINGS!



**The year is 824. Vikings have raided Bangor Abbey. They have carried off great plunder and many slaves have been taken.**

This dastardly act has not gone unnoticed by the local chieftan for they trespassed in his kingdom.

He has heard that the heathen warriors have advanced inland and have burned the holy church at Moville. He is a bold and fearless warrior and has challenged the Norse men to do battle at Portaferry.

Will they take up the challenge and if they do who will be victorious?

If your nerves can stand the tension come and discover the outcome.



# OUR BUILT HERITAGE

From neolithic tombs and early Christian churches to medieval castles and grand estate houses, this area has an extraordinary collection of wonderful built heritage. Find them along the Strangford and Portaferry Built Heritage Trails or go along to one of our special events.

## A Medieval Graveyard

Sun 1st June, 2pm to 5:30pm.  
Templecranny graveyard, Portaferry. Free.

Let Tom McErlean & Liam McQuillan guide you around Templecranny and learn about this graveyard and church's fascinating history.

## Medieval Castle Action

Supported by the Department of the Environment  
Supported by the  
Department of the Environment

Sat 31st May, 1pm to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 1pm to 5pm.  
Strangford and Portaferry Castles. Free.

Meet our Living History Man-at-Arms, as he guards the castle. But don't be fooled, as our Man-At-Arms will show you just how deadly this entrance could be for the uninvited guest! He will display a range of fighting weapons and armour to handle and try on, so if you've always wanted to heft a sword, test the edge on a dagger, the point on a spear, and wear a helmet or chainmail, here's your chance to experience what it might have felt like to be a medieval fighter.

For further information please contact:  
028 9054 3030.



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# MARINE AND COASTAL LIFE

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Strangford Lough is an internationally important Marine Protected Area. You can see amazing marine and coastal wildlife here any day of the year. Keep an eye out for seals and sometimes porpoise swimming past the shorefront and marvel at the diving skills of the elegant terns that have flown all the way from Africa to nest here. In June the coastal walks at nearby Killard Pt. and Ballyquintin Pt. uplift the soul with their their carpets of wildflowers.

2013 saw the sad loss of Dr Pat Boaden, former Director of Queen's University Marine Laboratory, Portaferry. On shore field trips, Pat advised his students to "Turn over another stone - you never know what you might find." An enquiring and creative mind carried into Pat's personal life and he was noted for composing music and poetry, playing the fiddle and encouraging young people in their endeavours.

He was a huge influence on many people over the years and he is honoured in this Festival with a new event "Turn Another Stone" - this combines a shore walk with a presentation on the area's wonderful marine life - crossing art and science and involving young people.

## Forage The Shore

Sat 31st May, 8:30am.

Meet Ballyhenry Bay, just over a mile along Lough Shore Road from Portaferry. Free.

With local naturalist David Thompson.

Low tide is early so an early start is needed as David reveals the wonders of the Strangford Lough shoreline. There will be a chance to collect some samples of seaweed to bring back to The Narrows and try.

Wellies advisable.

## Turn Another Stone

Supported by the Department of the Environment

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 1:30pm.

Meet at the front of Queen's University Marine Lab. Free.

Enjoy a walk on the shore and discover crabs, sea anemones and fish out of water, with the help of marine scientist, Jen Firth, who is just mad about marine beasties!

Bring outdoor clothing, wellies and a sense of adventure.

Sun 1st June, 2pm to 3pm.

Castle Yard Gallery, Portaferry. Free.

Fascinating tales of marine life, music and beautiful photography with Dr Bob Brown.

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# MARINE AND COASTAL LIFE

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## SpyBall

Sat 31st May Sat, 10:30am to 12 noon.

Sun 1st June, 3pm to 5pm.

Portaferry Shorefront. Free.

Discover the beauty of what lies beneath the surface of Strangford Lough with this exciting underwater camera.

## Marine Family Fun

Sat 31st May, 10:30am to 4pm.

Queen's University Marine Lab (QML), Portaferry. Free.

Sea creatures to touch and see under a microscope and big waves in the enormous sea tanks. Meet Strangford Lough's mini beasts with help from QML scientists and lots more.



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# MARINE AND COASTAL LIFE

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## **Family Biodiversity Day and Coastal Walk**

Supported by the Department of the Environment

Sat 31st May, 11am to 4pm.

Killard National Nature Reserve.

The coastal grasslands of Killard are glorious at this time of year and carpeted in wildflowers including orchids. They are aflutter and abuzz with butterflies, birds and bees. Take in the air along one of our most beautiful stretches of coast and track down some wildlife with your expert guide.

Guided Walk and bring your own picnic. Killard NNR. (Appropriate footwear and clothing).

Suitable for all ages. Booking essential. Quoile Countryside Centre. Tel. 028 4461 5520.

## **Nugent's Wood Walk**

Sun 1st June, 2pm to 3pm. Free.

Meet outside the RNLi Station, Portaferry.

Walk through the peaceful and beautiful Nugents Wood, Portaferry with the National Trust Guide who will be on hand to tell you more about the woodland wildlife.

## **Seal Watch**

Supported by the Department of the Environment

Sun 1st June, 9am to 1pm

Cloghy Rocks Nature Reserve, Shore Road Strangford, Free.

Get great views of the seals hauled out on the rocks and find out all about them from the people who monitor and record them.

Telescopes and binoculars provided. Just turn up at the car park.

## **Ulster Wildlife**

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.

Inverbrenna Hall, Strangford.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

The Castle Yard, Portaferry.

Touch and feel fabulous sea creatures in the discovery pools, feel the silkiness of a seaweed hand spa, make marine works of art and get into other sea related activities.

## **Flyaway Moth**

Sun 1st June, 10am.

Inverbrenna Hall, Strangford. Free.

Be amazed at the colour and beauty of these mysterious creatures that are all about us but rarely seen.

Butterfly Conservation NI working with local people will record then release moths captured in the area the night before.

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# MARINE AND COASTAL LIFE

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## **Exploris - Northern Ireland's Aquarium**

Sat 31st May, 11am to 6pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 6pm.

Portaferry. Admission charges apply.

Tel. 028 4272 8062.

Discovery pool sessions throughout the day.

Huge conger eels, sinewy octopus and colourful wrasse are just some of the animals you will meet when you visit the aquarium.



# MARINE ENERGY

The Narrows of Strangford Lough is a centre for renewable, sustainable energy experiments to provide a long term solution to our planet's future energy demands.

It really is fitting that Strangford Lough should provide the location for such revolutionary research as the world's oldest known tidal mill was built by monks at the northern end of the Lough at Nendrum.

You can see the black and red tower of the SeaGen Marine Current turbine which holds two impeller blades like windmills beneath the water.

The Minesto underwater sea kite is tethered to the seafloor and can work at lower water speeds. It is not visible on the surface but its location is marked by yellow buoys off Ballyhenry Island.

EnAlgae is a partnership project, locally based in Queen's Marine Lab Portaferry. Come and meet the scientists who aim to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels in NW Europe by developing algal biofuel technologies.

## EnAlgae Boat Tours

Get out on the water to look at the UK's first pilot commercial scale seaweed growing site, one of three renewable energy sites on the Lough. Also take in the fabulous scenery and wildlife with your expert guide.

See page 21 for boat schedule.



## EnAlgae Seaweed Garden

Sat 31st May, 10:30am to 4pm.

Sun 1st June, 1pm to 4pm.

At or adjacent to Queen's University Marine Lab. Free.

EnAlgae will be hosting their seaweed garden stand and tours again in QML - come and see how we are growing seaweed in Strangford Lough to produce bioenergy and help us construct long-lines for our seaweed garden! You can also see just how fish, mussels and seaweed work together to help each other grow.



# ART AND CRAFT

**The Ards Peninsula has the highest concentration of craftspeople in Northern Ireland – perhaps this has something to do with the inspirational landscape, stimulating heritage and culture of the area. Whatever it is, we are pleased to present many local artists and craftspeople in this year's festival.**

## Wildlife Wood Carving

Sat 31st May, 11am to 5pm.

Exploris Park, Portaferry.

Wood carving demonstration and activities with artist, Owen Crawford.

## The Port

Sat 31st May, 12 noon to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

Portaferry.

Local artists showcase their beautiful fine art and crafts and host selected works by many others.

## 'Reaction, direction, creation'

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 1pm to 5pm.

The Loft, Portaferry Tourist Information Centre. Free.

Responding to the theme of 'reaction, direction and creation', ten students from the South Eastern Regional College (SERC) have produced a collection of work which encompasses the mediums of fine art, print and 3D including ceramics.

## Craft Fair

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

The Green, Strangford.

Local craft from County Down and beyond.

## Barbara Allen's Edible Art and Susan Hughes Art

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.

Upper Room, The Castle Yard, Portaferry. Free.

To catch the best of the harvest Barbara visits St. George's Market early, buys a variety of fish and heads straight to her studio where the fish are swiftly sketched, photographed, painted and finally pan fried with a little olive oil and garlic or neatly filleted and stored in the freezer.



## PORTAFERRY

Saturday 31st May 2014

Event	Location	Time
Forage the Shore	Meet at Ballyhenry Bay	8.30am
Country Market	Market House	9am-12 pm
National Trust Book Shop	SLLP Offices	9am-5pm
Medieval Street Market	Castle Yard	10am-5pm
Viking Warfare	Exploris Park	12 noon-5pm
Viking Archery	Exploris Park	10am-5pm
Become a Viking	Castle Yard	10am-5pm
EnAlgae Seaweed Garden	Queens Uni. Marine Lab	10am-5pm
HM Coastguard Trailer	Shorefront	10am-5pm
'Reaction, direction, creation'	The Loft, TIC	10am-5pm
Art Exhibitions & Displays	Upper Room, Castle Yard	10am-5pm
Boat Tours on the St Brendan	Ferry Quay	10am-11.30am, 1pm- 2:30pm & 3pm-4.30pm
Marine Family Fun	Queen's Uni. Marine Lab	10.30-4pm
SpyBall	Shore Front	10.30am-noon
The Rock Show <b>T</b>	Castle Yard	11am- 12 noon
Wildlife Wood Carving	Exploris Park	11am-5pm
Climbing Wall	Exploris Park	12pm-5pm
Building A Boat	Boatbuilding Shed (behind Centra)	12pm-5pm
Seaweed in Strangford Lough <b>T</b>	Seminar Room, Queen's Uni. Marine Lab	12.30-1.30pm
Tall Tales and Viking Long Ships	Sea Front	1pm-5pm
Medieval Castle Action	Tower House	1pm-5pm
'Sailing Ships & Sea Captains' <b>T</b>	Upper Room, Castle Yard	2pm-3pm
Sailing Taster Session (Adults)	Portaferry Sailing Club	5pm
Viking Warrior Funeral Procession	Exploris Park & Shorefront	5.45pm-6.45pm
Brigid O'Neill Trio	The Narrows	7pm-8.30pm

**T** - Talk

## PORTAFERRY

Sunday 1st June 2014

Event	Location	Time
Sailing Taster Session (Junior)	Portaferry Sailing Club	11am
Medieval Street Market	Castle Yard	12pm-5pm
National Trust Book Shop	SLLP Offices	12pm-5pm
Tall Tales and Viking Long Ships	Sea Front	12pm-5pm
Become a Viking	Castle Yard	12pm-5pm
HM Coastguard Trailer	Shorefront	12pm-5pm
RNLI Open Day	RNLI Station	12pm-3pm
'Turn Another Stone' Shore Walk	Meet at Queens Uni. Marine Lab	12pm-1:30pm
'Turn Another Stone' <b>T</b>	Upper Room, Castle Yard	2pm-3pm
EnAlgae Seaweed Garden	At Queens Uni. Marine Lab	12 noon-5pm
Building A Boat	Boatbuilding Shed (behind Centra)	12pm-5pm
Flyaway Moth	Castle Yard	12pm-5pm
Ulster Wildlife	Castle Yard	12pm-5pm
Art Exhibitions & Displays	Upper Room, Castle Yard	12pm-5pm
Boat Tours on the St Brendan	Ferry Quay	12.30- 2pm, 2:30-4pm & 4:30-6pm
Viking Warfare	Exploris Park	12 noon-5pm
Viking Archery	Exploris Park	1pm-5pm
Pirate Fun Day & Seafood specials	Sailing Club	1pm-4pm
Medieval Castle Action	Tower House	1pm-5pm
'Reaction, direction, creation'	The Loft, TIC	1pm-5pm
Nugent's Wood Guided Walk	Meet RNLI Station	2pm-3pm
A Medieval Graveyard	Templecranny	2pm-5.30pm
'Portico' <b>T</b>	Upper Room, Castle Yard	3pm-4pm
SpyBall	Shorefront	3pm-5pm
Folk Music Session	The Coach Inn	3pm-6pm
Around The World' <b>T</b>	The Narrows	5pm-7pm

**T** - Talk



**STRANGFORD**

**Saturday 31st May 2014**

Event	Location	Time
The Yurt	The Green	10am-5pm
Flyaway Moth	Inverbrenna Hall	10am-5pm
Ulster Wildlife	Inverbrenna Hall	10am-5pm
'Around The World' <b>T</b>	Inverbrenna Hall	11am -1pm
Coastal Walk	Killard NNR	11am-4pm
Craft Fair	The Green	10am- 5pm
Medieval Castle Action	Tower House	1pm-5pm
The Rock Show <b>T</b>	Inverbrenna Hall	2pm-3pm
'Irish Whales & Dolphins' <b>T</b>	The Cuan	3pm-4pm
Live Music	Hole in the Wall	8pm-late

**STRANGFORD**

**Sunday 1st June 2014**

Event	Location	Time
Guided Seal Watch	Cloghy Nature Reserve	9am-1pm
Strangford Seasafaris	Strangford Quay	10am-5pm
'Sailing Ships & Sea Captains' <b>T</b>	The Cuan	11am-12noon
Craft Fair	The Green	12pm-5pm
The Yurt	The Green	12pm-5pm
Medieval Castle Action	Tower House	1pm-5pm
Voices of Lecale	The Cuan	2pm-3pm

**T** - Talk

# ABOUT TOWN IN PORTAFERRY AND STRANGFORD

Pick up a heritage trail map and have a wander around historic Portaferry and Strangford and take in some of the Festival activities along the way.

A special treat is the chance to see a boat being built in Portaferry - one of the 8 St Ayles' Skiff coastal rowing boats being constructed in communities along the Ards, Strangford Lough and Lecale coast this year as part of the Down Coastal Rowing - Narrows Challenge project.

This new community and tourism initiative has been developed by the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP) with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), has been approved by the Down Rural Area Partnership (DRAP) as part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas, and it is supported by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and Down District and Ards Borough Councils.

 [downcoastalrowing](#)

## Building a Boat

Sat 31st May, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5 pm.  
Boatbuilding shed, behind Centra, Portaferry. Free.

See the Portaferry coastal rowing boat being built and meet the team working on it.

## Art in the Yurt

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.  
The Green, Strangford.

Free (small charge face-painting only).

Come to the yurt-- the colourful tent with designs by local children, take part in kids crafts and face painting.



# ABOUT TOWN IN PORTAFERRY AND STRANGFORD

## Country Market

Sat 31st July, 9am to 12 noon.  
Market House, Portaferry.

Local Food, Plants & Crafts.

## HM Coastguard Information Trailer

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Shorefront Portaferry. Free.

Come and meet the local Coastguards at the information point.

## Pirate Fun Day

Sun 1st June, 1pm to 4pm.  
Portaferry Sailing Club.

“Smugglers” story telling, treasure hunt, crafts, bouncy castle, facepainting and much more!

## DOE\* Marine Division Information Point

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Upper Room, The Castle Yard, Portaferry. Free.

Whale bones, diving equipment, marine creatures and the chance to talk to marine biologists about their work are amongst the jewels in this showcase of the marine life of Strangford Lough and Northern Ireland.

\*Department of the Environment

## Local Folk Session

Sun 1st June, 3pm to 6pm.  
The Coach Inn (Sands), Portaferry. Free.

Local folk session in Sands first Sunday of the month.

Contact Brendan for more details  
028 4272 8409.



## The Narrows Seaweed Social

Sat 31st May, 12 noon to 9pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 7pm.  
The Narrows, Portaferry.

Celia Spouncer will run a pop up cafe at The Narrows with a marine theme, all welcome.

Come and try seaweed in various foods or just simply a mug of tea or coffee.

There will also be a chance to make your own seaweed cosmetics.

## Portaferry RNLI

Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 3pm.

Visit the RNLI gift Shop and meet some of the volunteer crew and see the impressive electronics and equipment on the station's Atlantic 85 Lifeboat.

## Tour of Thrones Bus Tour

Sat 31st May, 10am, 2pm and 6pm.  
Depart from The Green, Strangford.  
£15 per person.

Visit 10 Game of Thrones stunning filming locations that make up Westeros. 3 hour tour. Outdoor clothing and comfortable footwear recommended.

Booking essential through Quinns Coach Hire on 028 8673 7325 or email [hugh@quinnscoachhire.com](mailto:hugh@quinnscoachhire.com)

## Beneath the Surface

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Upper Room, The Castle Yard, Portaferry.

Sink beneath the waves with this beautiful short film on the seabed of the Lough (repeat showing).

# ABOUT TOWN IN PORTAFERRY AND STRANGFORD



## Climbing Wall

Sat 31st May, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Exploris Park, Portaferry.  
Small charge applies.

Test your climbing skills on this brilliant climbing wall from Mobile Team Adventure.



## National Trust Book Shop

Sat 31st May, 9am to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Strangford Lough & Lecale Partnership  
Offices in Portaferry.

Come and browse the large collection of second hand books.



## Voices of Lecale

Sun 1st June, 2pm to 3pm.  
The Cuan, Strangford.

Come and listen to the community folk choir based in the historic town of Downpatrick, singing folk music with sea-shanties and songs from Co. Down.

## The Rock Show

Sat 31st May, 11am to 12pm.  
Upper Room, Castle Yard,  
Portaferry. Free  
Sat 31st May, 2pm-3pm.  
Inverbrenna Hall Strangford. Free.

Find out where all those pebbles on the shore come from, what's inside a drumlin and why Scrabo Hill dominates our skyline, with geologist, Dr Kirstin Lemon.

## Strangford Lough and Lecale Exhibition

Sat 31st May, 10am to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Upper Room, The Castle Yard,  
Portaferry. Free.

Stunning photography and lots of information in this display on the area's heritage.

## Brigid O' Neill Trio

Sat 31st May, 7pm to 8:30pm.  
The Narrows. Free concert.

Singer songwriter Brigid O' Neill and her band blend great country blues with folk, jazz and bluegrass to produce a sound that delights the audience.

Food and drinks available to purchase.



## Live Music & Street Entertainers

Sat 31st May, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Sun 1st June, 12 noon to 5pm.  
Portaferry and Strangford throughout the day.

## Seafood Specials

Sun 1st June, 1pm to 4pm.  
Portaferry Sailing Club.

A taste of the sea at the Salt House restaurant and live music.



# ON THE WATER

## Boat Tours on the St Brendan

A beautiful, traditional wooden boat built by your captain, John Murray, and his sons. Be guided by EnAlgae\* and National Trust expert and local guides. Meet the scientists and see the long lines where they are growing seaweed to provide energy.

Get up close to whirlpools and the world's first commercially operating marine current turbine. Meet seals, terns, cormorants, guillemots and maybe even a porpoise along the way. Enjoy scenic tower houses, great estate houses and parkland and take in the sea air. \*see page 11.



Departure from beside Portaferry Ferry Quay. Boarding the boat involves approx. 15 steps.

Sat 31st May, 10am to 11:30am (National Trust)  
Sat 31st May, 1pm to 2:30pm (Eric Rainey)  
Sat 31st May, 3pm to 4:30pm (EnAlgae)  
Sun 1st June, 12:30pm to 2pm (EnAlgae)  
Sun 1st June, 2:30pm to 4pm (Eric Rainey)  
Sun 1st June, 4:30pm to 6pm (National Trust)

Tickets: Adult £8  
Child £4  
Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £20

Advance booking strongly recommended, contact Strangford Lough & Lecale Partnership 028 4272 9005 during office hours.



## Strangford Sea Safari

Sun 1st June 10am to 5pm.  
Trips leave hourly from 10am.  
Whirlpool Specials 1:30pm & 2:30pm.  
Departs from Strangford. Charges apply.

Exciting trip on a Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) taking in the local sights.

Suitable for all ages from 3 - 103!

Contact Clearsky Adventure Centre on 028 4372 3933 or email [fun@clearsky-adventure.com](mailto:fun@clearsky-adventure.com)



## Sailing Taster Sessions

Sat 31st May, 5pm. ADULT Taster Session, Portaferry Sailing Club. Free  
Sun 1st June, 11am. JUNIOR (8-18) Taster Session, Portaferry Sailing Club. Free.

Portaferry Sailing Club welcomes all to come along and have a go.

Contact David Braniff at Portaferry Sailing Club 077 6260 0340 to book a place.



## Strangford Ferry

A trip on the Strangford Ferry is one of the easiest ways to have a good look at this amazing stretch of water in just 8 minutes. This is the oldest recorded ferry service in Ireland and it has crossed the Narrows in continuous service for 400 years!

# TALKS

From Sea Captains to Seaweed our talks programme covers a huge range of topics with brilliant speakers ready to share their stories and pictures.

One of the themes is that of the area's maritime history. For over a hundred years Portaferry was at the forefront in shipbuilding and ships, captained by local master mariners, these ships sailed all over the world. In the 18th and 19th century, towns and villages here bustled with merchants, ship builders and tradesmen and elegant country estates prospered. The fine mansions, warehouses and quays built by these people are still used today, making this a truly special maritime place.

## 'Seaweed in Strangford Lough: Past, Present and Future'

Saturday 31st May 12:30pm to 1:30pm.  
Seminar room, Queen's Marine Lab,  
Portaferry. Free.

Dr Karen Mooney and Eleanor Brown.

## 'Around the World'

Sat 31st May, 11am to 1pm.  
Inverbrenna Hall, Strangford. Free.  
Sun 1st Jun, 5pm to 7pm.  
The Narrows, Portaferry. Free.

Sit back and enjoy images from around the world, including fantastic wildlife, as Tyrone Currie recounts how he built his own catamaran and then sailed it around the world on an adventure of a lifetime.

Alongside, you can also have family fun with Ulster Wildlife at the Inverbrenna Hall on Saturday.

Have a bite to eat at the Narrows Seaweed Social while you are there on Sunday.



## 'Sailing Ships & Sea Captains'

Sat 31st May, 2pm to 3pm.  
Upper Room,  
The Castle Yard, Portaferry.  
Sun 1st June, 11am-12 noon.  
The Cuan, Strangford. Free.

Learn more about the sailing ships and sea captains of the area at a truly captivating talk by Alison Murphy and James Elliot.



## 'Irish Whales & Dolphins'

Sat 31st May, 3pm to 4pm. The Cuan,  
Strangford. Free.

Few people realise just how many species of whale and dolphin regularly pass our shores. Find out what they are, where they go and how you can help them, with Ian Enlander from the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group.



## 'Turn Another Stone'

Sunday 1st June, 2pm to 3pm.  
Upper Room, Castle Yard, Portaferry. Free.

Marine biologist and former Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in NI, and renowned speaker, Dr Bob Brown celebrates life on the seashore in memory of Dr Pat Boaden (see page 7).





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# FIND OUT MORE

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Check out [www.strangfordlough.org](http://www.strangfordlough.org)

Download our new smartphone application  
“Local Insights into Strangford Lough and Lecale”.

This FREE app features local people telling their stories - from their passion for seaweed to having an ancestor killed by a pirate!

Send a postcard with a stunning photo of the area using your phone.

Search for Strangford Lough and Lecale from the Apple i-tune store and Google Play.

## COMING UP

### Portaferry Gala

Sat 19th to Fri 25th July.

Portaferry Gala is one of Northern Ireland's longest running community festivals. The packed week long programme provides fun and events for all the family. Events include vintage tractors, music, competitions, football, 10 mile run, Pitchin' the Sheaf, Arts & Crafts. It ends with a not-to-be-missed Gala Float Parade on the Friday evening when thousands turn out to marvel at this year's extraordinary and topical inventions!

### Strangford Village Festival

August Bank Holiday weekend.

To include Challenge the Narrows Coastal Rowing Event.

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## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Dr. Karen Mooney, Dr. Julia Sigwart, Jen Firth, The Cuan, The Portaferry Hotel, Dr. Kirstin Lemon, Catherine Bertrand, Magnus Viking Association, Portaferry Sailing Club, Liam McQuillan, James McAvoy, Dr. Rory Mellon, Phil Smyth, Portaferry Regeneration Ltd, Ian Enlander, Neil McClure, Fire Service Portaferry, St. John's Ambulance, PSNI, HM Coastguard, Queen's University Marine Lab, National Trust, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Tom McErlean, Joe Breen, Dr. Bob Brown, Alison Murphy, Eleanor Brown, James Elliott, Tyrone Currie, Ulster Wildlife, Barholm, The Narrows, David Thompson, Ards Arts. Many thanks also to our team of volunteers without whom this Festival could not happen.

# FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

1. Boat Building Shed
2. Castle Yard  
(Viking Market, Kids Activities, Displays and Talks)
3. The Cuan (Talks, Food)
4. Exploris and Exploris Park  
(Viking events, Climbing Wall, Woodworking)
5. The Green (The Yurt, Kids Activities, Crafts)
6. Inverbrenna Hall (Ulster Wildlife, Moths, RSPB, Talk)
7. The Narrows (Seaweed Social, Music, Talks)
8. Nugents Wood (Walk)
9. Portaferry Ferry Quay (St Brendan)
10. Portaferry Sailing Club (Sailing, Pirates, Music, Food)
11. The Port (Art)
12. Queen's University Marine Lab (QML)  
(Marine Family Fun, EnAlgae)
13. RLNI Station
14. Sea Safari Departures
15. SLLP Office (Second hand book-shop)
16. Templecranny Graveyard (Guided Tours)
17. Tourist Information Centre (The Loft - Art)
18. Tower House Portaferry (Medieval Castle Action)
19. Tower House Strangford (Medieval Castle Action)

