



EVENTS

Events/Bristol Harbour Festival

Festival is ship shape for anniversary year

RACHEL AVERY takes a look at what's on offer at this weekend's Bristol Harbour Festival as it celebrates its 40th anniversary

The South West's biggest free cultural event, the Bristol Harbour Festival, celebrates its mammoth 40th anniversary this weekend.

The picturesque harbourside will once again play host to live music, theatre performances, circus acts, dance stages and food stalls, while hundreds of historic and visiting boats sail into the harbour.

With more than 250,000 visitors last summer, the event attracts people from across the UK, and highlights Bristol as a major cultural and historical destination.

The jam-packed weekend will kick off tomorrow with an array of things to see and do spanning two miles along the water's edge.

Queen's Square will be at the heart of the festival and is set to serve up an irresistible mix of sounds with jazz, reggae, soul, funk and world beats. A variety of acts will be performing, including Lady Nade, DJ Derek and The Magnificent Seven.

The Square will also have a Continental market selling food, drink and gifts from France and Italy, which will be open late into the night. Other markets dotted around the centre of Bristol will be selling a range of goods, from clothing and jewellery to artwork and crafts.

This year the spectacular headline act is The Invisible



Circus, performing their pirate-themed show, The Rogue's Salute.

The renowned underground performance troupe have been dazzling crowds with their spectacular stunts for almost 10 years. This is definitely the must-see event of the festival and will be taking place at Umberslade Wapping Wharf (behind M shed).

The mesmerising show is replacing the firework display that used to take place on Saturday evening.

The festival will also take full advantage of the popular venues around the city from the Colston Hall to the Tobacco Factory, which will be putting on additional ticketed shows.

Bristol-born comic Lee Evans will also perform intimate warm-up shows for his forthcoming arena tour at the Colston Hall over the weekend. This headline event is now completely sold out.

Following last year's success, the Bristol Old Vic Young Company are returning to King Street once again to entertain the crowds.

They will be performing original productions of The Collector and The Distance of the Moon.

The busy weekend has plenty of fun for all the family too. Castle park will play host to the circus stage and will be where the children's area is located - with plenty of activities on offer including face painting and inflatables provided by Bristol Playbus.

Millennium Square will be home to a huge stage where dance performances will take place - everything from ballet and contemporary to salsa and swing. There will also be a chance to get involved and take part in dance workshops throughout the day.

Over at the Arnolfini, screenings will be taking place all day long, suitable for all of the family. Ticketed showings in the evenings include The Devil and the Details and Handbag.

If you're looking for somewhere calm to relax then head down to Cascade Steps, where a range of acoustic bands will be playing.

There will also be many vessels in the harbour over the weekend, such as HMS Raider, The Kathleen and May, and The Pride of Bristol, not forgetting the historical favourites, The Matthew and the SS Great Britain.

In a nod to tradition, the festival will feature a rowing tug of war event, as did the first harbour festival in 1971.

Once called The Water Festival, the event marked the transition of the harbour from a working dockside to a focal point for leisure and culture.

It is hoped that the festival will also attract more people to Bristol's new museum, M shed, which displays the city's history in interactive form through three main galleries.

To celebrate the historic 40th anniversary of the festival, there will be a chance to get involved and share your

memories from the past four decades.

You can upload your pictures and stories to the Facebook page www.facebook.com/bristolharbourfestival and will be exhibited at M shed in their Harbour Festival archive.

Bristol Harbour Festival July 28-31. Tickets are required for certain events. Visit www.bristolharbourfestival.co.uk.

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the **big quiz**
every Wednesday
Free bowl of chips **21:00**

Winner takes all!
£1 per team member

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