

SHOWCASING THE BEST OF THE NORTH COAST

RED SAILS FESTIVAL

PORTSTEWART

19TH - 25TH JULY 2026



FREE FIREWORKS MUSIC
DANCE STREET THEATRE
CHILDREN'S GAMES
WORKSHOPS &
MUCH MORE...

Image credit: Alan Lyttle



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RED SAILS FESTIVAL

Previously called the Portstewart Summer Carnival, the current community festival has its origins back in 1968.

Back then a committee from St Mary's Star of Sea Parish Church decided to organise a Summer Carnival.

This first Carnival lasted four weeks and was very much a cross community enterprise.

In 1972 the organising of the Carnival was taken over by the Portstewart Community Association.

Membership was cross community and one of the first projects was to use the festival to raise money to provide a summer break in the seaside town of Portstewart for children living in areas of Northern Ireland experiencing the worst effects of "The Troubles".

In 2000, The P.C.A. committee decided to change the name of the Summer Carnival to The Red Sails Festival, in honour of songwriter Jimmy Kennedy, who wrote the lyrics to "Red Sails In The Sunset", whilst based in Portstewart.

In 2008 the programme included a Multi-Cultural Showcase. Ever since multi-cultural events have been incorporated into the cross-community programme and have been an integral part of the Festival.

Portstewart Community Association is a registered charity run entirely by volunteers from the town. We exist to support community life on the Causeway Coast.

RED SAILS FESTIVAL

PORTSTEWART - SUNDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY



SUNDAY 19TH JULY

- 10.30am **Get Wet Stay Safe** on the Strand
Swimming Safety Talk and Dip with Swim Ulster.
Book via <https://www.swimulster.com>
- 2.00pm **Blessing of the Boats** at the Bandstand
A time of reflection celebrating the power and beauty of the sea
- 2.45pm **The Roeside Stompers** at the Bandstand
- 4.00pm **Rockpooling Session*** at Portnahapple
with Ulster Wildlife
- 3.30pm **Inflatable Football, Mini Golf** at the Crescent
Plus Outdoor Games
- 4.00pm **Carnival Disco** at the Crescent
Face painting, games & more
- 4.00pm **Summer Sounds** in Agherton Church
with The Classical Guitar Society of NI
- 5.30pm **Sarah Carson Music** at the Bandstand
Local country musician
- 6.30pm **Bubble Bike** on the Promenade
- 7.30pm **Pure Blarney** at the Bandstand
Six-piece electro-acoustic folk/rock group

DON'T MISS OUT!
PCA EVENTBRITE BOOKINGS

***BOOKING ESSENTIAL VIA PCA EVENTBRITE**

Acts/venues are subject to change. All changes will be communicated via our website and social media channels. All events are FREE and available on a First Come, First Served basis unless otherwise stated. Children must be supervised at all times. Red Sails at Sunset are 18+ events.

RED SAILS FESTIVAL

PORTSTEWART - SUNDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY



MONDAY 20TH JULY

- 8.00am **Ladies Open Golf Competition**
EJ Donnelly Cup at Portstewart Golf Club
Phone club to enter: 028 7083 2015
- 10.30am **Lego Digital Animation Workshop***
- Noon in Agherton Parish Centre
With Can Do Academy. Ages 6-10
- 11.00am **Children's Sandcastle Workshop** at the Crescent
with sculptor Tony Hawkins
- 12.30pm **"People of Portstewart" Exhibition**
at Flowerfield Arts Centre until Sat 22nd August
See our Facebook to submit artwork (Deadline: 6th July)
- 1.00pm **Carnival Disco** at the Crescent
Face painting, games & more
- 1.00 - 2.30pm **Lego Digital Animation Workshop***
in Agherton Parish Centre
With Can Do Academy. Ages 11-16.
- 2.00pm **Fun with Drums** at the Crescent
Community workshop
- 2.00pm **Portstewart Dog Show** at Cashlandoo Park
organised by Bubbles Dog Grooming.
See Facebook page for more info.
- 2.00pm **Beachcombing*** at the Strand
with Ulster Wildlife
- 3.30 - 5.00pm **Ray Bubbles Show** at the Bandstand
International Bubbleologist
- 7.00pm **Sunset Walk (18+)** at the Bandstand
A RED SAILS AT SUNSET EVENT
With Walking for All. Meeting at the PCA Gazebo
- 7.00pm **Bubble Bike** along the Promenade
- 7.30pm **The Reillys** at the Bandstand
Folk Music

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RED SAILS FESTIVAL

PORTSTEWART - SUNDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY



TUESDAY 21ST JULY

- 10.30am - **Multi Sports Fun Morning** at the Warren
12.30pm Try a range of new sports (All Ages)
- 10.30am **Design a Vintage Postcard (18+)****
at Flowerfield Arts Centre
- 11:00am **All Ability Dance Workshop***
at Flowerfield Arts Centre.
with Talia McDowell Dance
- 1.00 - **Children's T-Shirt Design & Printing Workshop**
3.00pm Bring your own t-shirt to Agherton Parish Centre
- 1.30pm **Design a Vintage Postcard (18+)****
at Flowerfield Arts Centre
- 2.00pm **Magic Show** at the Bandstand
- 3.00pm **Street Theatre** at the Bandstand (CC&GBC Event)
- 4.30pm **Meraki Dance** at the Bandstand
Bollywood Dancing performance
- 6.00pm **Coastal Vocals Choir** at the Bandstand
- 7.00pm **Bubble Bike** along the Promenade
- 7.30pm **Elvis Show** at the Bandstand
- 7.30pm **Tenx9 (18+)*** at the Anchor.
A RED SAILS AT SUNSET EVENT
Nine people share true, ten-minute seaside stories.
Story Submissions: <https://www.tenx9.com/events>

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RED SAILS FESTIVAL

PORTSTEWART - SUNDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY



WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY

- 10.00am - Noon **Children's Sand Art Workshop**
Agherton Parish Centre
10 minute make. Suitable for 6-12 years. Last entry 11.45am
- 10.00am **Portstewart's Fishing History** at Harbour Hill,
A walking tour from Harbour Hill to the Berne
- 10 - 11am **Intergenerational Family Print Workshop****
or
11-Noon at Flowerfield Arts Centre.
Create art together using sustainable, eco-friendly materials
- 11.00 - 12.30pm **Iconic Street Dance Workshop***
in Agherton Parish Centre Age 7-11
- 1.30pm - 3.00pm **Iconic Street Dance Workshop***
in Agherton Parish Centre Age 12-16
- 1.30pm - 3.00pm **Treasure Hunt** along the Promenade.
Collect answer sheets from PCA Gazebo
- 2.00pm **On a Summer's Day** in Star of the Sea Church
Music recital Rihanna McGraw, Robin and Cheryl McCay and Megan Paul
- 3.30pm **Carnival Disco** at the Crescent
Face painting, games and more
- 3.45pm **Saltwater Stories** in Portstewart Library
A history talk about Salmon Fishing in Portstewart by
local fisherman Gary O'Neill
- 7.00pm **Bubble Bike** along the Promenade
- 7.00pm **Willie Drennan Band & friends** at the Bandstand
Ulster Scots folk band
- 8.30pm **John Leighton Trio** (18+)
A RED SAILS AT SUNSET EVENT
Jazz music in the Anchor, Portstewart.

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PORTSTEWART - SUNDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY



THURSDAY 23RD JULY

- 8.00am **Men's Golf Open Competition**
JB Kennedy Rose Bowl at Portstewart Golf Club
Phone club to enter: 028 7083 2015
- 10.00am **Look Closer: Tiny Wonders**
in Agherton Parish Centre
Partnership with NI Science Festival. "Tiny Wonders" film screening with a hands-on workshop, suitable for 2-5 years, led by Ulster University scientists
- 10.30am **Family Safety Swim** at the Herring Pond.
Book via <https://www.swimulster.com>
- Noon - 1.00pm **Pavement Art Competition** at the Crescent
Chalk provided
- 2.00pm **Children's Talent Show** at the Bandstand.
Sponsored by Maxwell Freight. 30 slots available - first come first served. Registration from 12.30pm at Gazebo. Age categories 5-10 & 11-16 yrs.
- 3.30pm **Facepainting** at the Crescent
- 4.30pm **Puppet Show** at the Bandstand
- 6.00pm **Iconic Street Dance Performance** at the Bandstand
- 7.00pm **Bubble Bike** along the Promenade
- 7.00 - 8.30pm **Junior Fishing Competition** at the Harbour
For U16. All children must be supervised by a responsible adult.
- 7.30pm **Limavady Big Band** at the Bandstand
North Coast jazz and swing band
- 9.00pm **Comedy Club (18+)*** Upstairs in Villa.
A RED SAILS AT SUNSET EVENT
(Kiwi's Comedy Club) Hosted by Gary Pollock. Doors Open 8.30pm
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PORTSTEWART - SUNDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY



FRIDAY 24TH JULY

- 10.15am **Family Nature Walk*** (National Trust Event)**
Explores Portstewart Strand's protected sand dunes, rare habitats, and fascinating wildlife conservation. Age 5+
- 11.30am **Butterfly Safari*** (National Trust Event)**
Come join us to hunt, catch and identify butterflies on the Strand. Age 3+
- 11.00am - 4.00pm **Kite Display** on the Strand
by KiteCrew Ireland
- Noon - 2.00pm **Mae Murray Foundation Open Day** on the Strand
Music and dance, Puppet show, Fun with Drums.
Everyone welcome
- 1.30 - 2.30pm **Children's Sandcastle Competition** at the Crescent
With Tony Hawkins. Bring your own buckets & spades!
- 1.30pm **Hugo Duncan Roadshow** at the Bandstand
Hugo's much loved show is back!
- 3.00pm **Face Painting** at the Crescent
- 3.30pm **Wanda the Fairy** at the Promenade
- 3.30pm **Kidz Farm Petting Zoo** at the Crescent
- 4.00pm **Street Theatre** at the Bandstand
(CCGC event)
- 4.30pm **Family Safety Swim** at Portnahapple.
Book via <https://www.swimulster.com>
- 6.15pm **Shack Sessions** DJ set at Harry's Shack
A RED SAILS AT SUNSET EVENT
- 6.30pm **Babcock and Bobbins** at the Crescent
Walk about characters
- 7.00pm **70's Showstoppers** at the Bandstand
A roller-coaster ride through the super 70's!

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PORTSTEWART - SUNDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY



SATURDAY 25TH JULY

- 10.00 - Noon **Stick Puppet Drop-In workshop** at Flowerfield Arts Centre Ages 4-11 years
- Noon **Maritime Heritage Exhibition** at the Harbour
Traditional boats & displays
- Noon **NI Opera in the Park** Outdoors at Flowerfield Park
Bring your own seat and blanket
- 1.30pm **Children's Fancy Dress Parade**
Meeting at Atlantic Circle, finishing at the Crescent. Prizes for Most Comical, Topical & Nautical. Special Guests include Superheroes, Carnival Promotions, Community Rescue & NIFRS
- 2.30pm **Fun with Drums** at the Crescent
- 2.45pm **Magic show on the go** at the Crescent
- 3.00pm **Victoria Lagan Dance Company** at the Bandstand
- 3.00pm **Causeway Shantymen & Friends** at the Harbour
- 3.10pm **Face Painting** at the Crescent
- 4.00pm **Innova Irish Dance Company** at the Bandstand
- 4.40pm **Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band** at the Bandstand
- 5.20pm **Mexican Dance Performance** at the Bandstand
- 6.00pm **Rock Choir** at the Bandstand
- 6.30pm **Superheroes** at the Crescent
Meet Spiderman, Elsa and friends
- 6.30pm **Face Painting** at the Crescent
- 7.15pm **BRÍ** at the Bandstand
Eclectic mix of Irish and Scottish traditional music
- 8.00pm **Bubble Bike** along the Promenade
- 8.30pm **Prize Raffle Draw** at the Bandstand
Tickets (£1) available to purchase all week from the PCA Gazebo
- 9.00pm **Groove Robbers** at the Bandstand (CC & GBC Event)
- 10.30pm **Fireworks Display** from Harbour Hill
(CC & GBC Event)

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KEY FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

- 01. THE CRESCENT/BANDSTAND
- 02. THE HARBOUR
- 03. STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH
- 04. FLOWERFIELD ARTS CENTRE
- 05. PORTSTEWART GOLF CLUB
- 06. AGHERTON PARISH CENTRE
- 07. THE ANCHOR
- 08. HARRY'S SHACK
- 09. PROMENADE
- 10. HARBOUR HILL
- 11. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL
- 12. AGHERTON PARISH CHURCH
- 13. THE LIBRARY
- 14. HERRING POND
- 15. PORTNAHAPPLE
- 16. CASHLANDOO PARK
- 17. THE WARREN



THE RED SAILS FESTIVAL ORGANISERS WOULD LIKE TO SAY A HUGE **THANK YOU** TO ALL OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT THIS YEAR

