

Press Release - Quay to unlock old memories - Cheekpoint hosts Heritage Boats - English/Gaeilge

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QUAY TO UNLOCK OLD MEMORIES

Cheekpoint hosts the Heritage Boats

The magnificent Tall Ships are not the only rare boats visiting Waterford next week. Coming to salute their past partners in maritime commerce is the fleet of the Heritage Boat Association. Amongst their number are Grand Canal Company barges 68M and 72M. These veteran boats, in their commercial working life, carried cargos from all over the country along the rivers and canals, to the port of Waterford. From there they were transhipped to the far corners of the world by boats similar to the current Tall Ships and their successors.

Cheekpoint was an important milestone on the barges journey, for it was here that the barges turned onto the Suir for the final leg upriver to the ports of Waterford and Carrick. It was also here that the local Eel Fishermen would often cadge a tow from an upriver barge saving them a long and difficult row in their traditional Prongs. In turn the barge men might enjoy a bit of company, a chat over a brew of the "kittle" on the Bolinder and perhaps a few fresh fish for the supper. And so a fine co-operative grew up between the bargemen and the fishermen that led to many lasting friendships. It is fitting therefore that Cheekpoint once again acts as host to these unique boats, for they enjoy a shared heritage that deserves to be celebrated by both their crews and the local communities.

This year's journey commenced on a frosty morning in March when 68M headed north on the River Shannon and turned onto the Grand Canal north of Banagher. At the same time 72M quietly slipped her moorings in Naas and led the now growing fleet south onto the River Barrow at Athy. At towns and villages along the waterway, communities celebrated the arrival of the Heritage Boats and the revival of the Barrow Navigation, thanks to the excellent work by the engineers and staff of Waterways Ireland. 2011 is a significant year, marking the 220th anniversary of the opening of the Navigation. Five counties are celebrating with a series of events and festivals taking place all year to mark the occasion.

From the June 27th until the July 3rd, the Heritage Boats will be based at Cheekpoint Quay and a wide range of activities are planned with the local community. This visit will highlight the work of the Friends of Cheekpoint Quay to restore the harbour as the focal point of the village.

The Reading Room in the village will be the venue for a River and Maritime and a Heritage Boat Association Exhibition. There will be guided walks in Cheekpoint and Faithlegg Woods, a Village Fete on the Green, the launch of the Newfoundland Dory, a Flotilla of Boats from Cheekpoint to Waterford, a School Art Happening and other events.

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FÁ“GRA PREASSA

Meitheamh 21iÁ° 2011

CÁ%o CHUN SEAN CUIMHNE A SCAOILEADH

FÁjiltÁ-onn Cheekpoint na BÁjid Oidhreacht

NÁ- hiad na BÁjid Arda iontacha na t-aon bÁjid neamhchoitianta atÁj ag tabhair cuairt ar Port LÁjirge. Beidh cabhlach an Cumann BÁjid Oidhreacht ag teacht chun onÁ³ir a thabhairt do a sean phÁjirtÁ- i trÁjdÁjil muirÁ-. Ina measc tÁj bÁjirsÁ- an Grand Canal Company 68M agus 72M. D'iompair na sean bhÁjid seo, ina saol oibre, lasta Á³ gach pÁjirt den tÁ-r ar na abhainn agus canÁjlacha go dtÁ- cuain Port LÁjirge. Á“ sin bhÁ-odar iompartha go dtÁ- cÁ°inne fada an domhain ar bÁjid mar na BÁjid Arda.

BhÁ- Cheekpoint mar marc tÁjbhachtach ar turas na bÁjirsÁ-, mar bhÁ- sÁ© anseo a chas na bÁjirsÁ- isteach ar an tSÁ°ir chun an pÁjirt deireanach den turas chuig cuain Carraig an tSÁ°ir agus Port LÁjirge a freastail. BhÁ- sÁ© anseo freisin a fhaigheadh lascaire Easann tarraingt ar tÁ©ad Á³ na bÁjirsÁ- go minic á€“ iomramh fada a sÁjbhÁjil dÁ³ibh. Ar son sin d'fhÁ©adfadh na fir bÁjd beagÁjn comhluadar a bheith acu, caint thar cupÁjn tae tarraingÁ-tear ar an Bolinder agus bhfÁ©idir cÁ°pla iasc don dinnÁ©ir. As sin d'Á©irigh comhoibritheach idir na fir bÁjd agus na iascaire a spreag go leor sÁjr cairdeas. TÁj sÁ© cÁ³ir mar sin go bhfuil Cheekpoint ag cur fÁjilte roimh na bÁjid seo arÁ-s mar go bhfuil oidhreacht coitianta eatarthu a thuilleann ceiliÁ°radh Á³na foireann agus an pobail ÁjitiÁ°il.

Thosaigh turas an bhliain seo ar maidin reoch in MÁjrta nuair a d'imigh 68M Á³ thuaidh ar an tSionainn agus chas sÁ- isteach ar an CanÁjil MhÁ³r lastuaidh de Beannchar na Sionna. Ag an am chÁ©anna d'fhÁjg 72M a feistiÁ° i An NÁjs ag stiÁ°radh an cabhlach, atÁj ag fÁjs anois, Á³ theas isteach ar An BhearÁ° ag Baile Á°tha Á°. CheiliÁ°r bailte agus srÁjdbhailte an uiscebealach teacht na BÁjid Oidhreacht agus athbheochan An BhearÁ°. Is bliain tÁjbhachtach Á- 2011, tÁj sÁ© mar fÁ©ilte 220 oscailtÁ an uiscebealach. TÁj cÁ°ig contae ag ceiliÁ°radh le srath imeachtaÁ- agus fÁ©ilte i rith na mbliana.

“ Meitheamh 27^o go dtéil 31^o beidh na Baid Oidhreacht ag Cheekpoint agus beidh imeachtaí- ágsáil ar shiáineacht leis an pobail áitiúil. Déanfaidh an turas seo aire a tharraingt ar obair Cairde Cheekpoint an deisi^o mar phointe chomhtheagmhála an sráidbhaile.

Beidh The Reading Room san sráidbhaile mar suíomh do taispeántais Abhainn agus Muir- agus Cumann Baid Oidhreacht. Beidh siáil teoraithe do Cheekpoint agus Faithlegg Woods, Feis Sráidbhaile ar an Faiche, scaoileadh don Newfoundland Dory, Cabhlach Baid á Cheekpoint go dtéil- Páirt Lárige, Scoil Ealaín agus imeachtaí- eile. Á CRÁ•OCH

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