



The seafood festival will celebrate a vital part of Bridlington economy in July. Above, right the harbour has just installed five blue ornamental bikes ahead of the Tour de Yorks *Seafood pictures by Andrew Barrett*



Chris Wright, chairman of the Harbour Commissioners

On the trail for maritime history

Bridlington could be getting its own Maritime Trail, with the harbour playing a central role.

Representatives of the Harbour Commissioners have attended a series of meetings with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Hull University, local maritime historians and other interested parties to discuss the viability and route of the trail.

Commissioners' chairman Chris Wright said: "It's early days yet but we are hopeful that the Trail will become a reality. It's likely that it will consist of a number of story and information boards, sculptures and various others maritime markers and features.

"We believe it will start at the south of the harbour, running through the harbour estate and finishing close to Leisure World on the north side sea front. Clearly, the trail would be a very welcome addition to our heritage and will be yet another tourist attraction.

"It will include facts and figures from ancient Bridlington - the bay and the harbour - and will show accounts of the Great Gale, of Lawrence of Arabia's time spent in the resort, of Queen Henrietta Maria and the connection with the Hawaiian Royal Family, and of course some of the notable shipwrecks that occurred off the East Coast".

As they say, talks are continuing, but it is hoped the Trail will be in place in time for the 2016 summer season.

On your marks for another successful summer season

Bridlington's harbour, the focal point for the resort's fishing and tourism industries, is primed and ready for another successful summer season.

With Easter just around the corner, signalling the unofficial start of our holiday season, vessels have been given their annual 'MOT', leisure craft have been given a fresh lick of paint and the harbour itself is shipshape and ready for business.

Thanks to continuing investment by vessel owners in new boats and the on-going maintenance programme funded and managed by the Harbour Commissioners, all signs point to another high-performing year.

While it will be business as usual for our fishermen and the many associated businesses, 2015 also promises to be packed with events that are sure to appeal both to residents and the many thousands of day-trippers who visit our resort year on year. Among others there are two main events this year:

BRIDLINGTON SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

The Harbour Commissioners are working closely with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council to stage the festival on July 11 on Gummars Wharf at the West End of the harbour.

It will be funded by F.L.A.G (Fisheries Local Action Group), ERYC and the Commissioners and organisers say the aim is to promote our local seafood industry and tourism, two sectors that remain a vital part of the life and economy of Bridlington.

Arrangements are still being finalised but the one-day event will include seafood cooking demonstrations held in a large marquee. There will also be a licensed bar, and an array of stalls featuring local

groups such as the Bridlington Coble Preservation Society, the RNLI, the Coastguards, Royal National Mission to Deep sea Fishermen and many more.

It is hoped that visitors will also be entertained by entertainers from the Spa, a visit by the Town Crier and a display by the Flamborough Sword Dancers. Plans are also underway to make the most of Bridlington's involvement in the:

TOUR de YORKSHIRE

Following the enormous success last year when the Tour de France came to Yorkshire, our very own Tour de Yorkshire cycle race comes to town in May with Bridlington having the honour of staging the start on Friday the 1st. The harbour's preparations have already started with the installation of a five blue ornamental bikes around the harbour.

Riders from all parts of the world will set off from a starting line close to the harbour on the 174 km first stage of the race. From here, they will head along the Flamborough Head Heritage Coast before turning away into the North Yorkshire Moors National Park, through Dalby Forest and towards Pickering. They will then take a spectacular journey back to the coast at Whitby and then south to Robin Hood's Bay before the frantic race to the finish at the sea-front at Scarborough.

Chief Executive of the Harbour Commissioners, Margaret Hyland, said: "This is such an important event for Bridlington and we are currently investigating ways of how we can make the most of it. A member of our team is currently in talks with the Tour de Yorkshire organisers to see how we might get involved in the run up to start day."



With summer on its way, here are three of the most popular sea-borne attractions working from the harbour



THE YORKSHIRE BELLE

The Yorkshire Belle is Bridlington's most famous pleasure cruiser and is a former winner of the Sunday Times Best Boat Trip in Britain accolade.

Capable of carrying just over 200 people - 100 under cover - the vessel sails daily from April to October and offers a selection of cruises including a short trip from the Bay, a one-hour cruise to Flamborough Head and longer sailings further up the coast for views of the seabird colonies including guillemots, razorbills, puffins and Britain's largest seabird, the gannets.

The Yorkshire Belle is synonymous with the harbour and it is part of our history. Built in 1947, the vessel weighs 70 tons and is more than 24 metres long.

She is fully licensed and serves refreshments throughout the cruise.

More details and cruise prices are available at the Yorkshire Belle booking office on the North Pier.



THE PIRATE SHIP

Bridlington's mock pirate ship is an experience not to be missed by any youngster (or any mums and dads for that matter).

Operating from Crane Wharf, the ship caters for families and individuals on a 10-minute cruise into The Bay and back for just £2 for adults and £1 for children. Longer trips can be arranged but are subject to a risk assessment which can be found on our website www.pirateshipbridlington.co.uk.

A qualified skipper and crewman operate the boat and passenger safety is always of utmost importance. The vessel's life-saving equipment and fire-fighting equipment, engine, gearbox, prop, prop shaft, steering, fuel tank, bilge pumps and skin fittings are all annually inspected and are constantly maintained.

The boat was originally built in Bridlington as a fishing boat but with the decline in the fishing industry it was converted to its current purpose in 2000.



SPEED BOAT RIDES

If speed is your thing then why not try a ride on the speedboats in Bridlington.

Sonic and Purla are located at the north pier and leave daily for short trips throughout the summer season, weather and tides permitting.

Owner Mark Beckett says: "Customers get an exhilarating blast down the bay and back whilst taking in views of Bridlington's sea-front attractions. This is an amazing experience for all ages and great value."

Rides cost just £4 for adults and £3 for under 10s. So when you visit Bridlington harbour, do take the time to have a speedboat ride.

Mark says: "Our professional, helpful and very friendly staff are waiting to give customers an experience they won't forget."

The speed boat has been re-upholstered and fully serviced for the coming season.



Peter Sanderson

New faces on the board

The Harbour Commissioners are delighted to announce the appointment of three new Commissioners.

They are Dr Alan Watson, Peter Sanderson and Mike Eckles.

Dr Watson, of Flamborough, is a retired GP and practiced in Bridlington for 35 years. He has also served as a Lord Feoffee for the past five years and says he is delighted to be continuing the long association that the Lord Feoffees have with the harbour.

As for his experience with the sea, he said: "I used to sail a small dinghy some time ago but not now. Today, my hobby is photography".

Peter Sanderson is a figure well known around the harbour as owner of the commercial fishing vessel, Perseverance II. He said he was also looking forward to working with the Commissioners to the benefit of all those who rely on the harbour for their livelihood.

Mike Eckles, a marine surveyor, is the most recent appointment to the Board, having served previously as vice chairman.

The Commissioners have also announced that Rob Fletcher has joined the consultative body. Colourful character Rob will be well-known to many as the harbour's baitman. Born in Bridlington's Old Town, Rob has worked in and around the harbour most of his life.



Dr Alan Watson