

We are super excited about our 175<sup>th</sup> Regatta this year!

Can you imagine, 175 Regattas over the years, and things have certainly changed! The week long celebrations kick off on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August with The flags and bunting will be flying high again over the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta from Saturday, August 25 - Saturday, September 1, and the committees are delighted to say this year the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta will focus on what is our biggest asset in Dartmouth - the River Dart!

A major attraction on the South West calendar since its inception in 1834, this year's event promises to have a more traditional feel but with fresh emphasis on community and river based activities.

Organisers have gone back to grass roots principles with a programme they hope will fittingly celebrate the true meaning and spirit of the Royal Regatta.

A feast of rowing takes centre-piece on the river Dart with the final regatta of the West of England Amateur Rowing Association ten regatta championship series which attracts rowing clubs from around the region and along the south coast; three days of local rowing events in whalers and 'cadet' boats which attracts over 700 competitors; and gig rowing amongst South Devon pilot gig clubs.

The Embankment in Dartmouth is a favourite place from which to watch the events and the commentary over the Regatta public address system keeps spectators up to date.

Volunteers from the three local clubs, The Royal Dart Yacht Club, Dartmouth Yacht Club and Dittisham Sailing Club, organise the sailing events which are spread over the eight days of Regatta. The dinghy racing for the junior sailors takes place on the lower reaches of the Dart and for the senior competitors in the waters between Dittisham and Galmpton. The yachting events – of which there are over 50 - take place in Start Bay with an anticipated 250 boats, ranging from older classics to high-end racing machines providing for some very exciting and competitive racing.

In addition to the rowing and sailing there are a number of other well established sporting events. Athletics has been part of the Regatta since 1937 and is represented now by the Regatta Road Race, which will be run over a very testing five-mile course. There are also fun runs for children and young adults.

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the Regatta Tennis Tournament and a weeklong celebratory programme is being held at the tennis courts in Coronation Park which includes a closed event for local players and an open tournament recognised and supported by the Lawn Tennis Association. Don't miss what is surely the most picturesque tennis tournament in the country and see every game set and match!

Other sporting attractions planned are a one-day golf tournament at the Dartmouth Golf and Country Club with competitions for both men and ladies and an evening Darts tournament held at the Anzac Club in Dartmouth over two evenings.

Every year the Regatta organizes a variety of entertainment. It all kicks off with the Royal Regatta Fete, presided over by Judy Spiers; there will be Morris Dancing, children's entertainment and a dog show, to find out who will be Regatta Top Dog! All finished off with a superb Last Night of the Proms style concert from the BRNC Volunteer Band. Our famous and fabulous Regatta Ball will take place this year in the Guildhall on Tuesday 28 August, and the theme is Great Gatsby! Coronation Park will be a Caribbean delight on Thursday 30 August with the Regatta Sundowner, an open air festival style evening for all the family, with music, food and dancing. Ticket details will be announced soon on the website. During the day on Friday and Saturday the park will turn into an inflatable park for your children to enjoy, whilst you relax with a drink!

The Bandstand in Royal Avenue Gardens also has a lively music programme throughout the week and our popular Shopping Village with many craft stalls and delicious food and drink will now be accommodated in the more intimate surrounds of the Old Market, bringing more shopping traffic into the centre regions of town.

There is also a vibrant Street Market on the North Embankment which operates for the whole week and other diverse food and drink outlets in Royal Avenue Gardens.

Other events on the river are the Illuminated Boat Procession held after dark on the Friday and the Classic Craft review and steamboat rally on the Saturday afternoon.

There are a number of activities for children including crab fishing and a colouring competition, fancy dress and ice cream eating competition. Families can enjoy many fun events such as trolley racing and waiters and waitresses races and the ever popular competition, Spot the Oddity.

Firm favourites of the Regatta, the Newfoundland Dogs will again return to show their prowess in the water and we have what will surely be your Regatta highlight: two fantastic Flyboarding displays from local man James Prestwood. An extreme sport, Flyboarding will take you on a spectators adrenaline rush as James performs amazing stunts and tricks 50 feet above the River Dart!

One of the favourite parts of the whole of Regatta week will be the spectacular Saturday firework displays, guaranteed to leave lasting memories for those who come to enjoy all that the 174th Dartmouth Royal Regatta has to offer. Be ready to ooh and ahh...

Our souvenir programme packed with all the details and timings of what we hope will be a memorable Regatta will be available and on sale from the 1<sup>st</sup> August from Pillars, Holliss Filling Station and Dartmouth Visitor centre and Kingswear Stores and Kingswear Post Office.

Visit our [website](#) for news as it hits and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/dartmouthregatta/> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/>

Ends

912 words