



CORK REMEMBERS

KINSALE / OLD HEAD / COBH / COURTMACSHERRY

www.visitcorkcounty.com/Lusitania100Cork | May 2015 |  

LUSITANIA 2015:

7th May 2015 marks the centenary of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania by a German U-boat off the coast of Cork, Ireland, during the First World War. The Lusitania was en route to Liverpool from New York and 1,201 people lost their lives in the tragedy.

From 1st -10th May, four coastal communities in Co. Cork - Kinsale, The Old Head, Cobh and Courtmacsherry, in association with Cork County Council, will pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in 1915 and remember the gallant efforts of their ancestors who responded with great courage and compassion to rescue survivors, comfort the bereaved, and recover the dead, in ordinary fishing boats and lifeboats. These communities witnessed first-hand the trauma and heartbreak of the disaster.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LUSITANIA100 CORK PLEASE VISIT:

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Supported by



Cork
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FRIDAY 1ST MAY:

COURTMACSHERRY:

- 7.30pm** - Ryder and Courtmacsherry RNLI Lifeboats on display.
- 7.45pm** - Fly-over of Irish Coast Guard Helicopter.
- 8pm** - Official Opening of Centenary Weekend by Mr Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Marine, Food & Defence, on Courtmacsherry pier. Teas / coffees available in Community Hall.
- 6 - 9pm** - Lusitania Exhibitions in RNLI Lifeboat Station and Community Hall showing artefacts, memorabilia and story boards.

SATURDAY 2ND MAY:

COURTMACSHERRY:

- All day** - Short Stories featuring moving and personal stories from people with local connections to the Lusitania tragedy in Bars and Café's in the village throughout the day performed by locals dressed in period costume.
- 11am - 7pm** - Lusitania Exhibitions in Lifeboat Station and Community Hall. Model Exhibition at St. John the Evangelist Church.
- 2 - 5.30pm** - Ryder and Courtmacsherry Lifeboats alongside pontoon on pier for public viewing.
- 3pm** - Irish Coast Guard Helicopter at Barryroe GAA pitch.
- 5.30pm** - Pulling and Sailing Lifeboat display with restored Ryder Lifeboat.

SUNDAY 3RD MAY:

COURTMACSHERRY:

- 11am - 11.45** - Main Event: Re-enactment of Lifeboat Callout at Blindstrand (across from the Old Lifeboat Station in Barry's Point). Most of the actors and narrators involved in this pageant are direct descendants of the RNLI Lifeboat crew that rowed out to the stricken Lusitania in 1915. *(Directed by Angela Veldman O'Donovan)*
 - Narration of the Lusitania on passage from New York to Liverpool, the heightened fears of U-Boat activity in the area, launch of the torpedo, explosion, sinking of the ship, and the RNLI Lifeboat volunteers call to Service.
 - Launch of restored 1902 Ryder lifeboat and re-enactment of 12 mile Lifeboat row to Lusitania tragedy.
- 1pm - 7pm** - Lusitania Exhibitions in Lifeboat Station and Community Hall. Model Exhibition at St. John the Evangelist Church of Ireland. Short Stories on Lusitania tragedy in Bars and Café's throughout the day.
- 8pm** - Return of "Ryder" lifeboat to Courtmacsherry Pier after completion of row to site of Lusitania. *(ETA dependent on weather conditions)*

MONDAY 4TH MAY:

COURTMACSHERRY:

- 11am - 5pm** - Lusitania Exhibitions in Lifeboat Station and Community Hall. Model Exhibition at St. John the Evangelist Church of Ireland.
- 2 - 5pm** - Ryder & Courtmacsherry RNLI Lifeboat alongside pontoon on pier for public viewing.

WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY:

COURTMACSHERRY:

- 8pm** - Lusitania Centenary Commemoration Black Tie Dinner at Courtmacsherry Hotel. Special Guest speakers include Lusitania owner and renowned Lusitania technical diver.

OLD HEAD:

- 7.45pm** - Vigil at the Old Head Signal Tower, followed by an illustrated lecture on Lusitania at the Speckled Door at 8.30pm.

THURSDAY 7TH MAY - CENTENARY DAY:

COURTMACSHERRY:

- 9.30am** - Commemoration mass at Sacred Heart Church, Courtmacsherry.
- 2.10pm** - RNLI Courtmacsherry Lifeboat will lay wreaths at the exact site of RMS Lusitania wreck. Release of 1,201 balloons from 12 schools along the coast, from Rosscarbery to Clonakilty to Ballinadee. Balloons will also be released from Courtmacsherry RNLI Station, Barry's Point and Butlerstown Community Centre, each one bearing the name of a Lusitania victim to correspond with all the lives lost.

COBH:

- 7am** - Cunard Queen Victoria 'Lusitania Remembered' themed cruise with 2,300 passengers arrives at Cobh Cruise Terminal.
- Make sure you visit The Lusitania Peace Memorial in Cobh, which epitomises the efforts made by people to rescue survivors, recover bodies and comfort the bereaved. Irish American Sculptor Jerome Connor was commissioned by Bert Hubbard to sculpt a memorial to the tragedy. This is one of the most photographed objects in Cobh.
- 10am** - A special commemorative mass will be held in St. Colman's Cathedral, Cobh for relatives of those who died in the tragedy, those involved in the rescue efforts and relatives of survivors. Followed by an informal gathering in Cobh Parish Centre to sign a special book of remembrance.
- 11.45am** - Graveyard Ceremony: Unveiling of glass headstones and wreath laying ceremony at the graves of Lusitania victims at the Old Church Graveyard with Chairman of Carnival UK and Chairman of Port of Cork.
- 1 - 2.45pm** **OFFICIAL COMMEMORATION CEREMONY**
- 1pm** - Performance by Band 1 Southern Brigade on the Promenade.
- 1.15pm** - President Michael D. Higgins arrives to a full naval service guard of honour, joined by British ambassador Dominick Chilcott, American ambassador Kevin O'Malley, Germany's ambassador Matthias Hopfner, Chairman of Carnival UK, David Dingle, and Port of Cork chairman John Mullins.
- 1.35pm** **CEREMONY COMMENCES**
- 2.10 - 2.30pm** - Cunard Queen Victoria sounds a whistle to mark the moment Lusitania was hit by the torpedo, and a Naval vessel at anchor off the Promenade responds. Minutes silence, blessings, and hymns by Ryan Morgan, Amanda Neri and Joe Corbett with Concert Orchestra. The Queen Victoria sounds a second whistle to mark the sinking of Lusitania, and again the Naval vessel responds. Minutes silence.
- 2.35pm** - Wreath laying ceremony by President Higgins and British, German and US Ambassadors at the Lusitania Monument, Town Square. This will end the official commemoration.
- 2.45 - 4.15pm** - Musical performances on the Main Stage in the Promenade by Ryan Morgan, Amanda Neri & Joe Corbett with Concert Orchestra.
- 5.30pm** - Unveiling of commemorative tiles.
- 6.30pm** - Queen Victoria departs Cobh. A band will be on the quayside.

- 8 - 10pm** - Free open air musical tribute concert encompassing music from Cork's Harbour on Cobh's Promenade - featuring shanties and music from Ireland and America of the era.
- 9.15pm** - A Flotilla of work boats, fishing boats and pleasure craft sail from Roche's Point towards Cobh, re-enacting the rescue efforts and symbolising the return to Cobh on 7th May 1915 of boats filled with victims and survivors. Searchlights and white lights provide a poignant and memorable spectacle from many varied vantage points visible to local communities along the Cork coastline, including Fort Camden and Whitegate.
- 9.30pm** - Boat carrying the Cunard Flag comes ashore & The Procession of Light from Kennedy Pier in the Centre of town to the main stage in the Promenade while the bells of Cobh Cathedral ring out across the harbour. The illumination of the Lusitania Monument.
- 9.45pm** - Grand Finale on the main stage in the Promenade.

OLD HEAD :

- 1pm** - Free bus provided from Kinsale Tourist Office to Old Head. Booking essential, contact: dermotryankinsale@gmail.com
- 1.20pm** - Public assembly at Lusitania monument on the Old Head of Kinsale.
- 1.40pm** - Arrival of coastguard Air Sea rescue helicopter. Courtmacsherry 1915 replica lifeboat at the Old Head Signal Tower.
- 2 - 2.45pm** **OFFICIAL COMMEMORATION CEREMONY**
 - Ceremony commences with Raymond White, Master of Ceremonies.
- 2.10pm** - Courtmacsherry lifeboat over wreck site laying wreath and firing white flares. It will then proceed to motor in to Holeopen bay west in sight of the Old Head Monument.
- 2.10pm** - Irish Naval vessel sounds its whistle to mark the tragedy, 1min silence.
 - Ecumenical prayer service and laying of wreaths at the monument.
 - Lament specially composed by Linda and Irene Buckley.
- 2.25pm** - Last post on bugle.
 - Addresses by Alan Coleman, County Mayor, Michael Dowe, Grandson of Lusitania Captain Dowe, artist Stuart Williamson, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D. Minister of Agriculture, Food, Marine & Defence.
- 2.45pm** - Unveiling of commemorative plaque by Minister Coveney.
- 3pm** - Official Opening of the Old Head Restored Signal Tower (*and the associated Flag-and-Ball signalling system*), transformed into a Lusitania Museum, exhibiting artefacts recovered from the wreck. In the near future the Museum will also host an iconic piece of sculpture with the names of all who sailed on the Lusitania on May 7th 1915.
- 3.30pm** - Irish Coastguard helicopter and Old Head Signal Tower open to the public. From the parapet walkway the full panorama of one of Ireland's most scenic peninsula's will unfold.

THURSDAY 7TH MAY - CENTENARY DAY:

KINSALE:

- /** - Launch of Lusitania stamps at Kinsale Post Office by An Post.
- 10.30am** - Lusitania Town Walk from the Tourist Office.
- 2.10pm** - Minute silence in all schools in Kinsale while church bells ring and the release of 1,201 balloons.
- 5pm** - Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food, Marine & Defence meets descendants of the 1915 Jury for re-enactment of the inquest, performed by Kinsale College Drama Students at Kinsale Museum. (*Numbers limited, Bookings only*)

FRIDAY 8TH MAY:

KINSALE:

- 11am - 1pm** - Drama at the Kinsale Community School followed by drama at Naomh Eltin N.S. for 6th class primary pupils.
- 7.30 - 8.30pm** - Commemorative Concert at Saint Multose Church telling the story of the Lusitania in music and photographs, including the re-enactment of the 1915 inquest and concluded with a joint blessing and laying of wreaths on the Lusitania graves.
- 9pm** - Opening of the Annual Conference of the Federation of History Societies at the Trident Hotel with keynote speaker, Greg Bemis, owner of the Lusitania.

COBH:

- 11am** - A special mass will be celebrated to commemorate the sinking of the Lusitania at St. Benedict's Priory, The Mount, Cobh, open to the public. In 1915 this historic building was the Admiralty House and signal station for Cork Harbour. A short tour of the grounds will follow.

SATURDAY 9TH MAY:

KINSALE:

- 10.30-1.30pm** - AGM of the Federation of History Societies at Trident Hotel.
- 2 - 4pm** - Street Fair organised by the Kinsale Good Food circle, Market Quay, and Cobh Animation Team.
- 10am - 6pm** - Local schools art exhibition at the Kinsale Temperance Hall. Courtesy of Courtmacsherry RNLI the 1915 lifeboat will be on display.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY:

COBH:

- 11am** - Hotel Cobh Classic Car club display vehicles of the era of the Lusitania at Commodore Hotel.
- 12pm** - Special commemorative Mass in St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh, to mark the anniversary of the funeral procession for Lusitania victims on May 10th 1915.
- 3pm** - Re-enactment of the funeral procession from the centre of Cobh to the Old Church Cemetery where the victims were buried. General public invited to dress in clothes of the era. An ecumenical ceremony will be held in the Cemetery.

MONKSTOWN:

- 7pm** - Special Evensong in St. John's Church Monkstown by Monkstown Chamber Choir to commemorate the tragedy, attended by cadets from NMCI.

SUNDAY 24TH MAY:

KINSALE:

- All day** - Sea Sunday, an annual event that commemorates those who were lost at sea and prays for the safety of those out at sea, will take place in St. Multose Church with access to a rescue boat from Courtmacsherry. This will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony and a parade to the Seaman's Memorial on Kinsale Pier.

LUSITANIA CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

EXHIBITIONS/LECTURES:

APRIL & MAY EXHIBITIONS:

- **Kinsale Museum:** Creation of Lusitania Exhibition highlighting the story of the Lusitania and relevance of Kinsale in the subsequent inquests in the aftermath of the tragedy. www.kinsalefoundation.org
- **Cobh Museum:** *Lusitania - A Day in May*, housed in the former Scots Presbyterian Church, exhibition looks at the sequence of events following the sinking of the Lusitania with a focus on the rescue effort and personal stories of both the survivors and victims. The exhibition also tells the story of the Lusitania Memorial in Cobh. Pride of place is taken by a ship's biscuit, recovered from one of the Lusitania lifeboats which made it safely into Queenstown. www.cobhmuseum.com
- **Cobh Museum:** *Cunard - Queenstown*: This exhibition looks at Cunard's connection with Queenstown, particularly during World War 1 and also gives an overview of life in Queenstown in 1915. www.cobhmuseum.com
- **Cobh Heritage Centre:** *Lusitania Exhibition*, with photography exhibition and new section on stories from the Lusitania. www.cobhheritage.com
- **Cunard Centre, West Beach, Cobh, 26th April to end of May:** The Cobh Credit Union Lusitania Centenary Photographic Collection. Many are exclusive and courtesy of the National Library of Ireland and specially digitised from original glass plates. These striking images of survivors on the streets of Queenstown, the mass funeral and the burials in the Old Church Cemetery will stir emotions and transport you back in time. The exhibition will run throughout May 2015.
- **Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, 2-24th May:** *Notes on Lusitania* is an exhibition of works that considers three characters that died on-board the Lusitania - Cork born Sir Hugh Lane, and Americans Elbert Hubbard and Alice Hubbard. The exhibition will include text based installations, a sound installation, paintings and photographs. www.sirusartscentre.ie
- **Cobh Maritime Building, Cobh Train Station, April-June:** Port of Cork Schools Initiative projects themed '*RMS Lusitania - Commemorating 100 years in 2015*'.

MONDAY 6TH APRIL:

- **Commodore Hotel Cobh, 3pm:** Ray White - The making of the documentary "*Death by misadventure*" & John Hennessey - "*The Queenstown Lifeboat station*".

THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL:

- **The Speckled Door, Old Head, 8.30pm:** Lecture by Michael Martin, Maritime Historian. "*World War 1 Historical Context of the sinking of the Lusitania*".

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL:

- **Commodore Hotel Cobh 3.30pm:** Michael Martin "*Lusitania - It wasn't and it didn't*", after Cobh Titanic Commemoration.

THURSDAY, 16TH APRIL:

- **The Blue Horizon, Garrettstown, 8.30pm:** Lecture by Peter Kelly, Lusitania Researcher, "*People who sailed on the final Lusitania Voyage*".

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL:

- **Commodore Hotel Cobh 3pm:** Eoin McGarry "*Diving the Lusitania*".

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL:

- **The Speckled Door, Old Head, 8.30pm:** Lecture by Eoin McGarry, Diving Expert "*Diving on the Lusitania*". (*Lusitania artefacts will be on display*)

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL:

- **Commodore Hotel Cobh 3pm:** Author & Diver Paddy O'Sullivan "*The sinking of the Lusitania, Unravelling the Mysteries*".

- **Cunard Centre, West Beach, Cobh 5pm:** Official opening of The Cobh Credit Union Lusitania Centenary Photographic Collection.

TUESDAY 29TH APRIL:

- **Kinsale Temperance Hall 2.30pm:**
"The last voyage of the Lusitania", an illustrated lecture by Dermot Ryan.

FRIDAY 1ST MAY - MONDAY 4TH MAY:

- **Courtmacsherry Lifeboat Station & Community Hall:** Daily Lusitania Exhibitions displaying artefacts & story boards focusing on the local connections to the event.

SATURDAY 2ND MAY:

- **Coolbawn, Blindstrand Bay, Courtmacsherry, 2pm:** Lusitania themed talks by local historical society. Bus transport arranged from Courtmacsherry village.
- **Butlerstown Community Centre, Courtmacsherry, 5pm:** Lusitania themed talks, Bus transport arranged from Courtmacsherry village by local historical society.
- **Courtmacsherry Community Centre, 8pm:** Lusitania lecture and presentation by esteemed Lusitania Author & Diver Paddy O'Sullivan.

SUNDAY 3RD MAY:

- **Coolbawn, Blindstrand Bay, Courtmacsherry, 2pm:** Lusitania themed talk by local historical society. Bus transport arranged from Courtmacsherry village.
- **Butlerstown Community Centre, Courtmacsherry, 5pm:** Lusitania themed talk. Bus transport arranged from village.
- **Courtmacsherry Community Centre, 3.30pm:** Lusitania Presentation by renowned Lusitania Diver Eoin McGarry.

MONDAY 4TH MAY:

- **Coolbawn, Blindstrand Bay, Courtmacsherry, 2pm:** Lusitania themed talk by local historical society. Bus transport arranged from Courtmacsherry village.
- **Butlerstown Community Centre, Courtmacsherry, 5pm:** Lusitania themed talk by local historical society. Bus transport arranged from village.

WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY:

- **The Speckled Door, Old Head, 8.30pm:** Lusitania Lecture with Author and Diver Paddy O'Sullivan and Kinsale and Bandon Historical Society.

THURSDAY 7TH MAY:

- **Cobh Library, 11am:** Giollamuire Ó Murchú Historian, "*Síocháin in ainm Dé/And all her paths are peace: American angels, Irish rescuers: the true story of the Lusitania Peace Memorial 1925-1968*". (In association with Cobh Museum)
- **Cobh Library, 3pm:** Professor Angela John, Historian, "*A Survivor's Story: Margaret Haig Mackworth & the Sinking of the Lusitania*". (In association with Cobh Museum)
- **Cobh Library, 4pm:** Dr. John Borgonovo, School of History UCC, "*Lusitania, Cork Harbour and the Underwater War, 1914-1918*". (In association with Cobh Museum)

SATURDAY 9TH MAY:

- **Trident Hotel, Kinsale, 3pm-5.30pm:** Lusitania Seminar with Greg Bemis, Eoin McGarry and David Dore, followed by visit to the Signal Tower at the Old Head.
- **Kinsale Temperance Hall, 11.30am-6pm:** Local schools art & project exhibition.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY:

- **Kinsale Temperance Hall, 11.30am-6pm:** Local schools art & project exhibition.

See website for continuous updates on events schedule.