

## **MEDWAY BARGE MATCH 2023**

Members of the Medway and Swale Boating Association are invited to join the crew of the engineless Thames sailing barge Blue Mermaid to compete in the Medway Barge Match on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

We will be picking up our guests from the Medway Yacht Club pontoon on the evening of Friday 26 May. Guests will join our barge crew for an evening meal on the Friday evening before spending the night onboard the barge prior to the race. There will be an early start on Saturday morning to ensure Blue Mermaid underway in good time for the start. Light catering will be provided on Saturday, and guests are encouraged to join the barge crew at the prizegiving ashore after the race.

There will be a race crew onboard the barge, and our guests may participate in the sailing of the barge or just enjoy the spectacle of Thames sailing barges racing in close company with each other. No previous sailing experience is necessary as our race crew will show you what to do. Bring a camera as the matches provide a great photo opportunity. Blue Mermaid has proved herself to be a competitive barge and the racing is usually very exciting.

We are offering 8 places to members of Medway and Swale Boating Association and their friends and family, at £160 per head. Sea-Change Sailing Trust is a charity. Blue Mermaid is used for taking young people and disadvantaged adults on life skills-building residential voyages, and for maritime heritage skills training. In 2023 we will also be able to deliver a full hold of 110 tonnes of cargo under sail whilst trainees are gaining work related skills. Funds raised from barge match charters go to support the work of the charity. For more details about our work please see [www.seachangesailingtrust.org.uk](http://www.seachangesailingtrust.org.uk).



Please contact [judy@seachangesailingtrust.org.uk](mailto:judy@seachangesailingtrust.org.uk) to book your place onboard.