

The 'Matthew' ship visits Sandwich

The Matthew ship is a reconstruction of a type of ship called a caravel, and it was the ship that re-created John Cabot's voyage of discovery of 1497 to find a sea route to the orient, but instead discovering north America.

In May 1997, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Matthew's 1497 journey, the Matthew was destined to be seen off from Bristol by HM the Queen and HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh who is patron of the ship. Six weeks later, in Newfoundland, Canada, HM the Queen and Prince Philip welcomed the ship to north America after a seven week Atlantic crossing. Contrary to popular myth, Columbus never found the mainland of north America. That was Cabot, and the Matthew, credited by Prince Philip as having laid the foundations for the introduction of the English language to north America.



The ship is recognised by people due to numerous television appearances on programmes such as Blue Peter, Adam Hart-Davies, Dan Snow's series on the Royal Navy and many others. In 1997 the ship was the focus of a seven week series on BBC1 with Peter Snow, and more recently as the ship 'Dawn Treader' in the latest Narnia film.

Her visit to Sandwich will come after being invited to be in a premier position at the Thames Jubilee Regatta on 3rd June - the ship will be positioned at Tower Bridge, where Her Majesty will disembark after the 1000 ship regatta. The Matthew's first port of call en route to Cornwall will be Sandwich.

The only English sailing ship representing the medieval period in England's most complete mediaeval town will be a major attraction for visitors to the town.

Opportunities arise for civic and private receptions on board ship during her stay in Sandwich. She will arrive around 2pm on the Wednesday 6th and leave at 4 pm on Sunday the 10th.

Please contact the Matthew's local representative for more detailed information and media enquiries: David Redfern : 01843 845 363 Seafest@aol.com

