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Headline: Baltimore investors ready to give special welcome to ferry visitors



Baltimore investors ready to give special welcome to ferry visitors

THE launch of the Swansea-Cork ferry service on Monday, March 1, will be a big boost for Cork, according to Rianne Smith, who together with her husband, Jerry, is an investor in the service.

Collectively the people in Baltimore, where the couple live, and the neighbouring islands, have invested €100,000 in the service because they feel so passionately about the idea that communities must work to help themselves.

Together Rianne and Jerry run Aquaventures diving and snorkelling tours from the Stonehouse B&B in Baltimore.

Rianne is also chairperson of Explore Baltimore, a marketing co-operative of 100 business people in the village.

They are looking forward to giving ferry visitors a special west Cork welcome.

The believe it is so important to show support and enthusiasm for this much-needed link between Cork and the UK.

There is an array of events for visitors from abroad to enjoy if they visit, including the Fiddle Fair, the O'Driscoll Clan gathering, the heritage festival, the Wooden Boat and seafood festivals, and festivals and events on the adjoining islands of Sherkin, Cape Clear and Heir Island.

She also urged locals who decide to go to the UK for holidays, or need a freight service, to use the service.

Now open for bookings on website www.fastnetline.com, this year-round service, will run six nights a week, with additional sailings in July and August.

Sailing will be overnight departing at 9pm, and arriving at 7am the next day.

The *MV Julia* has capacity for 1,860 passengers, 440 cars, 40 trucks/trailers, and 300 cabins, including 14 deluxe cabins.

● See Monday's Evening Echo for more.



Rianne Smith, of Aquaventures diving and snorkelling tours in Baltimore, says new Cork-Swansea ferry service will be a big boost for THIS REGION.
Picture: Larry Cummins