# TRIP OUT

**January 1980**

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NORTH EAST

British Rail (Humber) The FARRINGFORD is to be replaced by the FRESHWATER again for her annual refit this month. The YORKSHIRE BELLE was chartered to maintain the ferry service on at least two occasions last autumn.

THAMES

Meridian Line Cruises The SWANAGE QUEEN got out of control and hit the river wall at Greenwich at about 0415 on 23 December, slightly injuring 26 passengers. The ship stayed in commission and was one of fifteen vessels out with evening parties on 31 December to see in the new year at Westminster.

Catamaran Cruisers The new catamaran being built at Woolwich for the "wining and dining" trade is to be named NATICIA.

SOUTH COAST

Part of the Royal Pier at Southampton was due to be closed this month and then demolished. The landing stages used for the Docks cruises are affected and the trips will presumably be run from the pontoon used for other excursions.

British Rail The Government has approved investment of £8 million in two new car ferries for the Fishbourne service.

Red Funnel A third RHS70 hydrofoil is to be delivered from Italy this spring.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Vedettes Blanches The SOLIDOR is off service for refit from 12 January to 8 February and the St-Malo to St Helier service is suspended during this period.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co has purchased the former River Dart ferry HUMPHREY GILBERT and is renaming her EDGCUMBE BELLE for use on the Cremyll ferry. She left South Devon in 1977 after purchase by BR for the Tilbury ferry, but after conversion was found to be unsuitable and in 1978 passed to a London firm. Their interest was speculative and she spent most of last year in Deptford Creek awaiting a buyer.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Next season sailings run daily (except Sundays) from 28 March to 13 October, with a double trip on Saturdays from 17 May to 6 September. From 28 March, the single or day return fare is increased to £9.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell A more regular sailing schedule is to be adopted this year with sailings from mid-May to late-September as follows: Mon: (alternate weeks 19 May - 29 Sep) Penarth - Ilfracombe - Clovelly with some calls at Minehead; Tue: Swansea - Ilfracombe - Lundy; Wed: Swansea - Ilfracombe - Lynmouth; Thu: as Tue; Fri (July and August only): as Tue; Sat: Swansea - Ilfracombe; Sun: alternate weeks 18 May - 28 Sep) Penarth - Ilfracombe - Lundy, usually starting at Portishead, (other weeks) as Tue. Calls at Mumbles and Porthcawl will be made as usual. Sailings start at Easter and there are some other trips from Penarth and Portishead before and after the main season. The BALMORAL is now expected to perform this programme as the company hopes to sell the DEVONIA. Coupons giving £4 worth of travel for £3 are available from the Co's Cardiff office until 28 February. Fares are expected to rise by about 10%.

WEST WALES

Dale Sailing Co The DALE QUEEN, a converted RNLI Watson-class lifeboat, is being advertised for sale for £9500.

NORTH WEST

Lathome Marine, Burscough, acquired the converted barge PEACE from Flower of Gloster Moorings in July 1978 and have renamed her SHOWBOAT for charter trips on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The 1980 timetable has been issued in a new format similar to that of cross-channel ferries; the Company's name is given as "The Steam Packet." Sailings are very similar to last year's using the same six ships; amongst changes are the Sunday Liverpool sailings which will follow the pattern of the other days of the week and this necessitates the use of a passenger-only steamer on most Sunday morning Fleetwood crossings.

Manx Line The service was disrupted by bad weather throughout last month while further mechanical trouble caused the MANX VIKING to be off service for about a week from the 28th. Next summer's sailings are at 0700 and 1730 from Douglas and at 1200 and 2300 from Heysham, thus allowing no scope for a day excursion to the island.

MISCELLANY

Fares on British Rail's Humber, Tilbury and Isle of Wight services rose on 6 January when rail fares were increased. Fares on the Windermere service are also being increased.

On the market in Scotland is the Arrochar Boat Hiring Co's SOUTHERN STAR, previously of Poole and Boscombe. The 48-passenger boat is being offered for £5000.

 © G P Hamer 7 January 1980

# TRIP OUT

**February 1980**

In recent months, a South Coast passenger vessel has been described as a "floating disco and offshore cruiser" and as a "mini exhibition and conference centre." These cumbersome and rather ridiculous expressions appeared in quite respectable nautical journals. Lloyd's Register, in its haste to transfer all records to computer files, now describes any day passenger vessel as a "ferry". It would seem that the English language now lacks a word for what used to be described as pleasure steamers. The term "excursion vessel" is hardly appropriate as today's vessels are chartered for all kinds of social and business meetings. "Pleasure cruiser" is too vague as it could also refer to a private yacht. Surely the English vocabulary must have a suitable word. If any readers of 'Trip Out' know of a suitable one, perhaps we can try to get it adopted more widely. Otherwise, I may one day find myself publishing a guide to "mini offshore conference centres."

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY is to visit England again this year and weekend sailings are provisionally scheduled as follows: London 3-5 May; Thames Estuary 10-11 May; Sussex Coast 17-18 May; Solent and Dorset 26-27 April and 24-26 May; Swansea/ Ilfracombe 31 May & 1 June; upper Bristol Channel 7-8 June; Liverpool/Fleetwood 19-20 April. Detailed schedules have not been settled though most sailings follow the pattern of previous years'.

THAMES

A shortlist of five designs for the new Westminster Pier has been chosen and the one to be built will be selected from these.

SOUTH COAST

The whole of Southampton's Royal Pier has been closed (correcting the report in the last issue) and the Blue Funnel vessels will in future use the Town Quay. On her visits in April and May the WAVERLEY will use a nearby dock berth.

British Rail The SHANKLIN was laid-up at Portsmouth last month and seems unlikely to resume service. On 21 January, the SOUTHSEA was withdrawn for repairs after hitting the Portsmouth landing stage and a one-ship service was operated for around three days. The summer cruises have been omitted from this year's car ferry brochure.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail is to take the Finnish VIKING 4 on a long-term charter for the Portsmouth route and this will allow the EARL WILLIAM to replace the CALEDONIAN PRINCESS at Weymouth. Plans for a new ship to replace the 'PRINCESS were rejected last year by the BRB. The 1980 timetable shows some changes from last year's. Until 3 March and after 14 November, the Weymouth service is reduced to two trips per week, outward on Friday and Sunday nights, returning the next day. Two ships are needed at Weymouth from 1 April to 1 November, with the full twice-daily service running between 23 May and 30 September. The Portsmouth service is daily from 29 June to 3 October with six sailings a week for the rest of the year. The EARL GODWIN was at Immingham for refit from 3 to 27 January and then took over the Portsmouth service, replacing the EARL WILLIAM which began her refit on 30 January at Avonmouth.

Condor is to introduce a gas-turbine powered 'Westamaran' in May. The craft will carry 260 passengers at up to 39 knots and will be the third 'Westamaran' to serve the islands (the others are the diesel engined BELLE DE DINARD and PEGASUS).

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The owner, Mr J G Thompson, has advertised the TORBAY CLIPPER for sale for £9500 and is apparently replacing her with a new vessel. Originally the Exmouth-Starcross ferry EXONIA, she has been at Torquay for four years.

WEST WALES

Pembroke Leisure The TUDOR PRINCE made what is expected to be her last trip from Pembroke Dock on 23 September, having carried over 30 000 passengers during the season. The new TUDOR PRINCESS will operate the service next season.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Kenrick Marine has been formed by West Bromwich hardware manufacturers Archibald Kenrick & Sons to operate from Huddlesford, near Lichfield, on the Coventry Canal. The BYNG KENRICK, a 41-passenger narrow boat, has been built by Hancock & Lane for public and charter trips, starting this year.

Steam Cruising Co, Norbury, has taken over the horse-drawn narrow boat IONA from Shropshire Union Cruises. The new owners are installing a bar and will offer light meals, while the range of trips has been extended to Market Drayton.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE returned to service on 11 January, replacing the MONA'S QUEEN which sailed to the Clyde for her refit. Preliminary results for 1979 show a net profit of £1 075 228, a slight fall from the previous year's.

MISCELLANY

The Veteran Steamship Society has failed to find a buyer for the RESOLUTE and may now have to break her up. She last carried passengers in 1967 on trips from Great Yarmouth and was acquired for preservation by the Society, but lack of money caused this aim to be abandoned last year.

 © G P Hamer 3 February 1980

# TRIP OUT

**March 1980**

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The full schedule for the WAVERLEY's visit to England and Wales has now been published. Sailings start on 17 April at Fleetwood and end on 8 June at Swansea. All ports served last year are revisited and in addition there are trips from Fleetwood, Liverpool and Llandudno (all visited in 1977), Clacton (visited in 1978), Swansea, Mumbles, Portishead and Minehead.

NORTH EAST

D B Connelly, Bridlington The BRIDLINGTON QUEEN, smallest of the three excursion vessels sailing from the town, is being offered for sale.

THAMES

D Rose, Rochester After one season as the QUEEN OF KENT, the former NEW GOLDEN SPRAY is for sale for £28 000.

Hire Cruisers (Maidstone) The SWAN has been offered for sale for £2750.

Greenwich Pleasure Craft Public sailings from Charing Cross were suspended in February and will not resume till Easter. The Westminster operators are still maintaining winter services.

George Wheeler Launches The contract for the new vessel ordered from the Bideford Shipyard went to the Yorkshire Dry Dock Co of Hull after the Devon yard closed last summer and the partly-completed hull was transported to Hull for completion. The vessel was launched on 18 February with the name ROSEWOOD and is due to enter service from Westminster to Greenwich in April.

Salter Bros The 1980 public service extends from 18 May to 7 September and follows the pattern of recent years, except that an additional service, a round trip from Henley to Marlow, is offered daily from 20 July to 31 August; this is the first service on this part of the river since 1973.

Hobbs & Sons, Henley, have introduced the 44-ft 55-passenger MARATANA on charter trips. Hobbs were established in 1870 but in recent years have offered only short trips with 12-passenger launches.

Medley Boat Station, Oxford, acquired the MERRY WIDOW from Keswick last autumn and plan to use her on the Thames.

Kennet Horse Boat Co, Newbury The business has been acquired from Bill Fisher by Mr and Mrs Butler, and the name has been changed from Kennet Boat Co.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The SHANKLIN was in service in January and early February while the BRADING and SOUTHSEA were refitted (contrary to the report in the last issue) but her certificate expired on 12 February and her withdrawal is confirmed by the publication of a two-ship Ryde timetable for next summer. Weekend sailings are reduced the most - Saturday departures down from 26 to 20 and Sundays from 24 to 19. There will be no Clarence Pier sailings or cruises.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL WILLIAM left Avonmouth on 22 February after completing her refit. The VIKING 4 continues in service between Sweden and Finland till 30 June, so is not expected to replace the CALEDONIAN PRINCESS till late summer.

Condor The new Westamaran will be named CONDOR 6 and will replace the hydrofoil CONDOR 3.

Service Maritime, Carteret The PEGASUS runs between Carteret and Gorey from 28 March to 2 November and makes Guernsey trips between 2 May and 29 August; the latter are being advertised jointly with the sailings to Guernsey via Gorey of the PECONIC QUEEN. LES TROIS LEOPARDS offers additional Carteret-Gorey trips from 1 May to 14 September.

Cie Côte des Iles The AIGRETTE V runs to Jersey from 29 March to 2 November with trips onwards to Sark and Guernsey on various dates throughout the season.

Herm Express Ferry One of the two vessels, probably the ALOUETTE, is for sale for £9000.

WEST OF ENGLAND

I Watts, Plymouth The WESTON LADY, owned by the Watts family of Weston-super-Mare, runs in summer from Plymouth to Cawsand, making four departures daily from the Mayflower Steps.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell The BALMORAL's ownership passed to Campbell's last autumn on the expiry of her long-term charter from Red Funnel.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Midland Navigation, Kinver The narrow boat LYN has been advertised for sale for £8000.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN completed her refit on the Clyde on 20 February and replaced the LADY OF MANN which was dry docked at Liverpool.

Manx Line The MANX VIKING began her annual refit on the Clyde on 29 February and is being replaced by the VIKING III on charter from Townsend Thoresen.

 © G P Hamer 11 March 1980

# TRIP OUT

**April 1980**

The new organisation on the Bristol Channel will bring no obvious changes this season but the consequences are worth examining. As far as European Ferries are concerned, they have rid themselves of an embarrassing liability without the bad publicity that would have resulted from complete closure. Their motives in buying the DEVONIA in 1977 will probably remain a mystery, though there can be no surprise over her planned sale after such a long spell of idleness. The BALMORAL will struggle on for another season, but what happens in 1981 and beyond ? The Landmark Trust has taken on the burden of running her, but is really only interested in a service to Lundy and is not likely to go on subsidising excursions elsewhere on the Bristol Channel. Even if they had wanted to continue the present services, they would hardly have chosen a ship which is past the end of her economic life. Their aim must be to find a smaller passenger ship to run to Lundy from Ilfracombe, much on the lines of the Sark service. Finding a suitable ship will not be easy, though. In the meantime, we can enjoy - or, at least, experience - the bizarre programme offered yet again this season by the BALMORAL.

Geoffrey Hamer

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NORTH EAST

J W Johnson, Scarborough The CORONIA has been sold to Millett Investments Ltd who will continue to operate her from Scarborough. Mr Johnson began operating in 1952 with the original CORONIA (later BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN and now QUEEN OF SCOTS); the present vessel took over in 1968, having run previously as the YORKSHIRE LADY. Millett Investments also own Scarborough's Royal Opera House which now handles party bookings and enquiries for the ship.

THAMES

J D Polkinghorn, Southend The DREADNOUGHT has been offered for sale.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The HIGHLAND SEABIRD was chartered for 7 days' trials on the Ryde service from 17 March. BR's plans for the service involve expenditure of £5½ million on two 350-passenger Westamarans which, if the plan is approved, would replace the two remaining passenger ships in 1981.

Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co Excursions by the SOLENT ENTERPRISE follow the pattern of recent years with a double trip to Cowes and an afternoon Portsmouth Harbour cruise on Mondays to Thursdays, and three Harbour cruises on Fridays and Sundays.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The CALEDONIAN PRINCESS began her refit at Immingham on 17 March.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell In a statement in March, European Ferries announced that responsibility for the Bristol Channel service is being transferred to the Landmark Trust which leases Lundy from the National Trust. European Ferries have owned Campbells for 20 years but now wanted to close the service though they were "reluctant to deprive the Bristol Channel of a major tourist attraction and the island of a vital link." A new company, White Funnel Steamers Ltd, owned by the Landmark Trust, is chartering the BALMORAL from Campbells who will be retained as managers and booking agents. The DEVONIA has been advertised for sale.

The season opens on 2 April with an Ilfracombe to Lundy trip. Unusual calls in the early season include Minehead on 12 April, Sharpness on the 27th, and Minehead and Watchet on both 10 and 11 May. There is a repeat of last year's 23-hour trip from Bristol to Lundy on 18/19 April.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE This year's Manchester Ship Canal cruises are on 14-15 June, 16-17 August and 13-14 September, sailing in each case from Liverpool on Saturday and from Manchester on Sunday; single fare £5.90. Contact Co-op Travel for more details.

National Trust, Coniston The return to service of the steamboat GONDOLA is now expected in July.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANX MAID joined the LADY OF MANN in dry dock in mid-March.

The Co's 1979 accounts show revenue of £11 307 188 (12% more than in 1978) but a 20% rise in costs, blamed mainly on oil price rises, led to a reduced net profit of £1 075 229 (down by 5%). Passenger traffic was higher than in 1978 and the increase in day trippers was over 20 000, mostly attributable to the early-season educational trips which are being repeated this year.

As part of the Co's 150th anniversary celebrations, a round-the-island cruise is being made on Monday 30 June; tickets are now being offered to shareholders but after 31 May will be available to the public at £2.50. Other events include special IoM postage stamps to be issued on 6 May, and a special 'Anniversary Ale' brewed by Okell's of Douglas for sale in the steamers this season.

 © G P Hamer 1 April 1980

# TRIP OUT

**May 1980**

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Waverley Steam Navigation Co  The WAVERLEY is now well into her fourth annual visit to England and Wales. The only incident of importance so far was the cancellation of the trip from Liverpool to Llandudno on 19 April because of a gale.

NORTH EAST

Millet Investors Ltd is the correct name of the new owners of the CORONIA at Scarborough, and not as given last month.

THAMES

Charges at the Greater London Council's piers were increased by around 30% on 1 April, with the exception of Charing Cross where the increase was limited to 15% to help Greenwich Pleasure Craft become established there. The deficit on running the seven piers in the coming year is estimated at £192 000.

Fares on services in London rose by between 10% and 20% at the start of the summer schedules before Easter. A return from Westminster to Greenwich, for example, has risen from £1.60 to £1.90.

Catamaran Cruisers  The iron-hulled VICEROY has been advertised for sale for £45 000. Built in 1902 as a Gosport steam ferry, she has been on the Thames since the 1930s. She was still on the Westminster-Greenwich service at the end of April, though advertised as being available for delivery.

Woods River Services  The SILVER BONITO, still carrying her old name of FATHER THAMES and looking very dilapidated, has reappeared at her old Chelsea moorings and seems unlikely to return to service this year.

Thames Motor Boat Co (Westminster) has been acquired by George Wheeler Launches from Mrs C Freeman. Five vessels join Wheeler's fleet of six, giving the largest fleet in London. The CONNAUGHT has returned to the upriver service while other vessels, including the CLIFTON CASTLE, have been used on Tower and Greenwich services. The HER MAJESTY'S, laid-up by TMB since the 1976 season, is believed to have been sold before the takeover.

Salter Bros  A new 60-ft 150-passenger vessel is being built by Hancock and Lane of Daventry.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Services  The NETLEY CASTLE'S port side upper vehicle deck was enlarged during her refit at Northam this spring to allow her to carry an extra 16 cars.

Croson  The season opens on 4 May with the POOLE BELLE running morning 'Dorset Lakes' cruises and afternoon Swanage trips. There were no trips from Bournemouth's piers at Easter.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail  The CALEDONIAN PRINCESS left Immingham on 28 March after her refit.

WEST WALES

Pembroke Leisure  The TUDOR PRINCE was at Ramsey, Isle of Man, in April and has presumably been sold, though no details are available.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Just Boats, Weedon, ceased operating in 1978 and the present whereabouts of the DUKE OF BRIDGEWATER is unknown.

Waterways Holidays, Weedon, are introducing public and charter trips on the Grand Union Canal in Northamptonshire with the CAPTAIN PUGWASH, a 70-ft narrow boat being built by Hancock & Lane at Daventry.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The LADY OF MANN resumed service on 3 April ready for Easter. The MONA'S QUEEN came off service on the 8th and, after a brief dry docking on the Clyde, resumed service on 19 April ready for the schools' excursions. The MANXMAN is in dry dock at Glasgow and the MONA'S ISLE also began her refit in April, at Liverpool. The Company is to build a vehicle ramp at Douglas and expects to open a cargo-only ferry service from Liverpool's Hornby Dock early in 1981; a ship would be bought or chartered for this.

Manx Line The MANX VIKING made a cruise round the Island on 27 April, her first ever cruise.

MISCELLANY

The paddle steamer OLD CALEDONIA was gutted by fire at her London berth in the early morning of 27 April. Three staff sleeping aboard escaped, but four firemen were later hurt. She had been open as a floating pub alongside the Embankment since 1972. The owners, Bass, have said they hope to restore her.

The former Humber paddle steamer WINGFIELD CASTLE, lying in London, is apparently under arrest by the Admiralty Marshal. Her engine room was found to be flooded on 20 April but was subsequently pumped out.

The National Trust's 1979 visiting figures for islands in its care were: Brownsea 112 000 (111 000* in 1978); Farne 48 000 (41 000); Lundy, under 20 000. St Michael's Mount, with 174 000 visitors (182 000 in 1978) was again the most popular of all the Trust's properties. (* This figure differs from that published by the NT last year).

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 30 April 1980

# TRIP OUT

**June 1980**

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Waverley Steam, Navigation Co The WAVERLEY has completed nearly all of her southern programme, though few sailings have been very well supported. On 31 May, a rising gale curtailed a sailing from Barry and Mumbles, and she returned to Barry without visiting Ilfracombe; she did sail from Swansea and Mumbles to Ilfracombe and round Lundy on the following day. Her last southern sailing is on 8 June, finishing at Swansea, and she then sails to Cairnryan for a trip on the 10th.

NORTH EAST

Alan Oliver Cruises), Doncaster The WYRE LADY is due to cruise to the Humber on charter on 12 and 26 July and on a public trip on 9 August. She and the ACHILLES run a 'waterbus' service for South Yorkshire County Council every Sunday and Bank Holiday till 14 Sep.

THAMES

George Wheeler Launches, Westminster The ROSEWOOD was handed over to her owners, John I Jacobs & Co, at the end of April in Hull and immediately began her long-term charter to Wheeler. She sailed to London in the first half of May and replaced the CHAY BLYTH on the Westminster-Greenwich service. The ROSEWOOD measures 164 gross tons and cost a total of £324 000. The WESTMINSTER was slightly damaged in a collision on 24 May. The CONNAUGHT, largest of the vessels taken over from TMB and the only one of her class to retain her traditional appearance, normally works to Hampton Court, taking the 1200 sailing from Westminster and the 1700 from Hampton Court.

Greenwich Pleasure Craft The CHAY BLYTH joined the fleet at Charing Cross in May. She had been chartered by George Wheeler Launches since building in 1972.

Carter's River Cruises, Westminster, a new operator, has introduced the new KINGSTON on the upriver service.

R G (Passenger Launches), Erith The business has passed from G Ricketts to Mr L R Greenwood. The vessels continue to operate the Ford contract ferry service.

British Waterways Board (Regent's Canal) The narrow boat WATER RAMBLER, used at times on the Zoo waterbus service and as an inspection boat, is being offered for sale by tender.

STRAITS OF DOVER

Day excursions are still being offered by all operators from Dover and Folkestone for £4 (£6 on Saturdays) and seem likely to continue for most of the summer. BR offers a through day excursion fare of £10 from London to Boulogne or Calais.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel The new hydrofoil, SHEARWATER 5, was delivered in May. The Co's 1979 accounts show a trading profit of £1 193 112 (38% more than in 1978) on turnover of £6 435 510 (up 18%).

Blue Funnel Cruises Last winter, the ISLAND SCENE's after deck was enclosed and both SCENES have had their white hulls painted blue to match the rest of the fleet. An innovation this year is a 2-hr lunch cruise from Buckler's Hard on Suns, Tues, Weds and Thus.

British Rail Special celebrations are taking place on 7 June to mark the 150th anniversary of the Lymington to Yarmouth crossing. The return fare on this day is £1.20, reduced to 10p for passengers wearing Victorian costumes.

M E Cutler, Boscombe The business was transferred to P R Penel last autumn and now operates as Boscombe Sea Cruises. The ISLAND QUEEN entered service on 25 May on a similar schedule to previous years. Fares have been increased to the same level as Croson's.

Croson The season was opened on 4 May by the DORSET BELLE, not as reported in the last issue. The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE started on 25 May and the POOLE BELLE opened the IoW service on the 26th. The only change to the schedule is that only one boat runs on Saturdays - to the 'Dorset Lakes' in the morning and to Swanage in the afternoon. Fares have been increased by 10% except to Yarmouth which has risen by 20% to £5 return.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL WILLIAM has been off service with engine trouble and BR chartered Townsend Thoresen's VIKING III till mid-May then the FREE ENTERPRISE II; the latter is on the Weymouth service while the EARL GODWIN has been transferred to Portsmouth.

Condor The CONDOR 6 was named on 18 April at Mandal in Norway then sailed to the CI via IJmuiden, entering service early in May.

## BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell Variations this month from the regular schedule (see Jan issue) are on the 9th (Swansea-Penarth-Minehead) and 23rd (Penarth-Portishead-Bristol). The regular Saturday schedule of two Swansea-Ilfracombe round trips starts on 21 June.

## WEST WALES

Pembroke Leisure The TUDOR PRINCE was sold, it is believed, for service in Northern Ireland and was refitted at Ramsey, Isle of Man. Her new owners seem to have run into difficulties and she was for sale in May for £25 000, with passenger certificates already issued for the 1980 season.

 © G P Hamer 4 June 1980

# TRIP OUT

**July 1980**

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY completed her southern sailings on 8 June by carrying a full complement on a cruise to the Severn Bridge. She then sailed to Fleetwood for a charter trip before returning to Scotland (the first trip scheduled after her return, from Cairnryan, was cancelled to make way for the Fleetwood charter).

NORTH EAST

Hill's Boatyard, York The PRINCESS ROYAL has been sold to a new operator on the River Dee at Chester and was delivered by road in February; she has been renamed EARL GROSVENOR. She had spent five seasons at York, having previously operated at Falmouth as the GONDOLIER.

EAST ANGLIA

J N Blake, Norwich The inclusive rail and river trip from London, introduced by British Rail in 1978, is again available this year. The trip includes a sailing from Norwich to Brundall in the REGAL LADY and is offered on Tuesdays and Sundays until 7 September at a fare of £7.

THAMES

D Rose, Rochester The QUEEN OF KENT was advertised for sale earlier this year partly because of doubts over the availability of Southend Pier. She is however expected to resume sailings between Southend and Rochester in mid-July, but this year will be based at Southend and not at the Medway town.

Catamaran Cruisers The new NATICIA is now in service and is based at the West India Dock Pier for the charter trade. The ABERCORN is now on the Westminster-Greenwich service in place of the VICEROY which is laid-up awaiting sale. Public cruises from Westminster now include a lunch cruise on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays all year round (fare £7.30) and summer evening supper cruises on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays (up to £7).

George Wheeler Launches, Westminster The newly-enlarged fleet has now settled down to its summer rosters: the CLIFTON CASTLE, LONDON BELLE and WITHEYCOMBE run to Tower Pier, the GREENWICH BELLE, KINGWOOD, ROSEWOOD, ROYALTY and WESTMINSTER serve Greenwich, the CONNAUGHT and PRINCESS FREDA run upriver and the THAMES BRITANNIA is laid-up. The upriver rosters vary and the CONNAUGHT is not always on the sailings mentioned in the last issue.

French Bros, Runnymede The new 150-passenger vessel entered service in June with the name LADY MARGARET ANNE. She is being used for charter trips but is expected to offer some public day trips in the peak season. The PRINCESS MARY continues to make short public cruises from the Runnymede Boathouse.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail Plans to build a new jetty and ramp at Fishbourne and to dredge Wootton Creek to accommodate the proposed new 250 ft long ferries are included in a private parliamentary bill which was given its second reading on 18 June. Local residents have objected to the increased road traffic which would pass through the village of Fishbourne. The SHANKLIN remains laid-up at Portsmouth and there have been no announcements about her future.

Mursell & Kemp (Sandown) Trips from Sandown Pier by the CYRIL LOTTE include cruises to Portsmouth Harbour, towards St Catherine's Point and to Southampton (when the QE2 is in port). Circular coach/boat trips are sometimes offered to Bembridge, the boat's overnight base. The vessel has a bar.

Boscombe Sea Cruises The ISLAND QUEEN has been modernised and is now fitted with a deckhouse and enclosed wheelhouse.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) The business is celebrating its centenary this year - the founder began ferrying passengers from Sandbanks to Shell Bay in a rowing boat in 1880. The present day fleet and services are unchanged from recent years'.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL WILLIAM carried out trials in the Solent on 29 June before resuming service.

WEST OF ENGLAND

I Watts, Plymouth, is running two boats, the WESTON LADY and WESTON MAID, on the Cawsand service which runs daily until 30 September.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Second City Canal Cruises, Birmingham, is the name adopted by the new owners of Leisure Line Canal Cruises. The boats continue to offer public and charter trips in the city.

NORTH WEST

A C Freeman, Caernarfon The JUCARAN offers regular trips to visit Fort Belan which has been opened to the public by the owner.

Premier Narrow Boats, Northwich, have acquired the narrow boat LAPWING from Inland Waterway Holiday Cruises of Preston Brook. She is offering charter trips from the firm's base at Bartington Wharf at Acton Bridge near Northwich.

National Trust The steamboat GONDOLA sails daily except Mondays from 1 July to 31 October; there are five round trips daily from Monk Coniston and Coniston Pier at the northern end of the lake to Lakefoot at the southern end. The round trip takes about 1½ hours and costs £2. Bookings are handled by the Mountain Goat minibus company.

MISCELLANY

The DUKE OF LANCASTER opened as a 'leisure centre' near Mostyn in early May, but her owners are in dispute with the local authority over road access to the ship and have threatened to move her elsewhere.

 © G P Hamer 2 July 1980

# TRIP OUT

**August 1980**

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EAST ANGLIA

The converted ship's lifeboat LEE PRINCESS, last reported running for the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority in 1976, has begun trips from Potter Heigham to Hickling Broad. Departures are at 1130 (Mon to Fri) for 1½ hours and at 1430 (except Sat) for 2 hrs 15 mins.

THAMES

The Inland Waterways Association's 1980 national rally is being held on 16-17 August at Lea Bridge between Clapton and Walthamstow on the River Lea. Passenger vessels which will be there include the PRIDE OF LEE, W E Walker's JENNY WREN, Bryan Nicoll's ARCTURUS and the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust's LANCING. All these will be taking passengers on at least part of their journeys to the site; contact the operators for details.

Lea Valley Narrow Boat Co The N B HOLLAND is making excursions along the full navigable length of the River Stort from Rye House to Bishop's Stortford on 24 and 25 August; contact the owners for details and bookings.

W E Walker, Camden The FAIR LADY has been replaced by a new restaurant boat named MY FAIR LADY. She continues the year-round cruises on the Regent's and Grand Union Canals. The new boat's hull was built by Strong Marine Construction at Twickenham.

D Rose, Rochester The QUEEN OF KENT resumed service on 12 July, working from a new base at Leigh-on-Sea. Weekend sailings are between Southend (depart 1000 and 1645) and Rochester (depart 1145 and 1845), with a 2-hour afternoon cruise from Southend at 1445. Weekday sailings include further Southend-Rochester trips on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, continuing to Aylesford (1 hour ashore) on Wed 13 and 27 August. There are excursions from Southend to Faversham on 8, 11, 15 and 29 August, and to Queenborough on 1 and 18 August and 1 September.

SOUTH COAST

The Paddle Steamer Preservation Society is chartering the HYTHE HOTSPUR on 30 August for a cruise from Hythe and Southampton to the River Medina.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor The CONDOR 3 has been sold to a Uruguayan company and was shipped to South America earlier this year. She has been replaced by the Westamaran CONDOR 6.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M D Barrow, Exmouth The new vessel is named DEVON PRINCESS II but was still being fitted out at Torquay in July. She is similar in general appearance to the converted naval vessel DEVON PRINCESS but has a steel hull.

Torbay Seaways The TORBAY CLIPPER has been replaced by the NEW ROSELAND which last carried passengers in 1978 for J P T Coakley at Tower Pier. The NEW ROSELAND was built for service from Bridlington but spent most of her life at Falmouth. The after part of her deck has been enclosed and a bar installed; her passenger capacity is now 142. Trips are offered from Torquay to Brixham and the River Dart (both afternoon and all-day trips) and she also does evening disco cruises.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell The BALMORAL's up-channel sailings, normally fortnightly, are made on three weekends in the next month: 10-11, 17-18 and 31 August and 1 September; in each case the final destination **is** Lundy on Sunday and Clovelly on Monday. On Bank Holiday Monday 25 August there is a double Swansea-Ilfracombe trip with an afternoon Gower Coast cruise. The BALMORAL normally has alternate Mondays off service, but sails continuously from 5 August to 7 September - 34 days' service.

Bristol and Bath Cruisers have introduced a new 40-passenger vessel named FLOWER OF BRISTOL. She operates in the City Docks and on the non-tidal Avon from a base at Midland Wharf, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol 1.

C J Barbeary, Ilfracombe The QUEEN OF CORNWALL with 70 passengers aboard ran aground off Combe Martin at about 1500 on 3 July. 23 passengers were taken off by helicopter and the rest by local boats and Ilfracombe lifeboat; six were taken to hospital suffering from shock. The vessel was refloated at about 1815 and returned to Ilfracombe.

WEST WALES

Pembroke Leisure now operates only the new 125-passenger TUDOR PRINCESS. Cruises this season last 1 hr 10 mins instead of 1½ hrs, and are offered upriver at 1030, 1330 and 1630, and downriver at 1200, 1500 and (Fri excepted) 1800. On Fridays there is a 3-hour 'trad jazz' cruise at 2000.

M & L Irvine, Barmouth The new VIKING II, an 87-passenger steel-hulled vessel, is being offered for sale.

NORTH WEST

E Bramston, Chester, is running trips on the River Dee with the EARL GROSVENOR, previously PRINCESS ROYAL of York.

Lathome Marine, Burscough, have sold the SHOWBOAT (ex PEACE) to other operators on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal after running her for less than two years.

Boatel Cruises, Wheelton Another barge is being converted to a passenger vessel under the name ROYAL SOVEREIGN. She is expected to replace the LADY MARY.

MISCELLANY

The burnt out paddler OLD CALEDONIA was towed from her berth by Waterloo Bridge in the last week of July; she had been there for eight years but a very successful career as a floating pub was ended by fire on 27 April.

# TRIP OUT

**September 1980**

Grumbling over the weather is a British tradition but this summer at least, the complaints have been justified. The meteorologists say it is the worst summer since 1956; other comparisons have gone back even further. Excursion operators have suffered and there could be some unpleasant news in the coming months as they count the cost.

Geoffrey Hamer

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NORTH EAST

British Rail (Humber) 48 written objections have been made against the proposed closure of the service and public hearings are to be held on 9 and 10 September. There have been many more objections to the closure of the rail service to New Holland Pier. The Humber Bridge is due to open in February. In 1979 there were 622 731 passenger journeys on the ferry and the service made a net profit of £27 000; in 1978, the first year of a one-ship service, there was a loss of £24 000. Ferry fares were increased again on 10 August.

Green's Canal & River Craft, Sheffield The PRINCESS KATHARINE is for sale for £6750 and is apparently to be replaced by a larger vessel.

EAST ANGLIA

Banham Marine, Ely The historic VISCOUNTESS BURY has been offered for sale.

THAMES

R G (Passenger Launches), Erith The DARTHULA II has been offered for sale for £16 000. She came to the Thames in the mid 1960s from Loch Etive and made trips as far as Southend and Richmond, but in recent years has been confined to Ford's Dagenham ferry.

Carter's River Cruises, Westminster The 163-passenger KINGSTON which entered service in the spring has been advertised for sale. She runs on the upriver service but has proved unsatisfactory - she is slow, noisy and difficult to handle.

F & B Boat Co, Kingston The SKYLARK X has been placed on the market for £16 000 with delivery at the end of September. She has been at Kingston for four years after many years at Westminster.

French Bros, Runnymede The LADY MARGARET ANNE has been making day trips to Hampton Court on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and these continue till 11 September, from Runnymede at 0915, Staines 1000 and Chertsey 1105, due Hampton Court 1315; the return journey starts at 1430. This service covers stretches of the river which have no other public sailings. 2-hour cruises are offered from the Runnymede Boathouse at 1445 on Weds and Eris, and at 1400 and 1600 on Suns, in addition to the 35-min trips available every afternoon in the PRINCESS MARY.

Misc Southend Council decided on 31 July to close the town's pier on 30 September to save staffing costs, but there are no plans yet to demolish it. The only passenger vessel to use it regularly this season has been the QUEEN OF KENT.

Passenger vessels visiting the IWA rally on the River Lee on 16-17 August were the JENNY WREN and PORT-A-BELIA PACKET on day trips from London, the ARCTURUS, FARNWORTH, N B HOLLAND and PRIDE OF LEE, all running short cruises, and the LANCING, used for an exhibition.

STRAITS OF DOVER

British Rail To mark the CAESAREA's impending withdrawal from service, she will be making a series of Dover-Boulogne day trips after her regular schedule ends; these run daily from 28 September to 3 October, with a final trip in aid of the RNLI on 4 October.

SOUTH COAST

S Crane, Keyhaven The Hurst Point ferry HAVEN ROSE has been offered for sale for £4000.

A W Isaacs, Alum Bay In addition to the normal cruises from Alum Bay to the Needles, the MAVERICK occasionally offers trips from Totland Bay Pier to the Needles. Her overnight base is Yarmouth.

Croson The 'Dorset Lakes' cruise from Swanage operated on Thurs only from late-July instead of twice weekly.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Services from the CI to France appear to have suffered less from the fishermen's blockade than other routes; St-Malo was closed on 18 August but was reopened within a week.

British Rail The VIKING 4 is being re-engined by Jos L Meyer at Papenburg, West Germany, before joining the CI service under the name EARL GRANVILLE.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Avon Cruises (Bath) Both vessels, the GARY and KINGFISHER, have been advertised for sale by the owner.

P & A Campbell Sailings follow the usual pattern this month with up-channel day trips on 14-15 and 28-29 September. Unusual trips in October include an Ilfracombe-Penarth-Bristol day trip on the 4th and the annual Isles of Scilly weekend on 10-13 October.

WEST WALES

F G John, St David's In addition to cruises round Ramsey Island, the SEA VIXEN offers a daily (SSuX) excursion to land leaving at about 1000; fare £3 including landing fee. In the past, the island's own 12-passenger boat has offered the trip.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE made her last trip of the season on 27 August from Douglas to Llandudno and then sailed light to Liverpool to enter Morpeth Dock, Birkenhead, the next day. A decision on a ro/ro service is to be made shortly and could determine whether the MONA'S ISLE is retained next season.

MISCELLANY

On the market in Scotland is the COUNTESS OF KEMPOCK, owned by Offshore Workboats; she has spent the summer running to Staffa under charter as in 1979.

The OLD CALEDONIA was sold by Bass Charrington for scrap; they are reportedly negotiating to buy the KING GEORGE V as a replacement.

# TRIP OUT

**October 1980**

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NORTH EAST

Pennine Boat Trips of Skipton The business, with an annual turn-over of £20 000, has been put on the market. It has been under the ownership of Mr J B Tillotson since 1976 when the present vessel COBBYDALE was introduced.

THAMES

D Rose, Rochester From 8 September, sailings were revised and the QUEEN OF KENT made two round trips from Rochester to Southend on Tues, Thurs, Sats and Suns; a Southend-based schedule was attempted on Wednesdays only.

Catamaran Cruisers The NATICIA is offering a monthly 4-hour dinner and theatre cruise from Lambeth Pier; the fare of £16.50 includes dinner, wine and a music hall entertainment. Though normally on charter work, she has also on occasion run the public lunch cruise from Westminster instead of the VALULLA.

W A Jackson The THAMES QUEEN has not been in service this season and Richmond to Hampton Court trips have been run by the YARMOUTH BELLE alone. The THAMES QUEEN, originally the Sunderland steam ferry SIR WALTER RAINE, is currently lying at Brentford.

Thorpe Park, Chertsey, consists of former gravel pits which are now lakes; they are close to the Thames but not joined to it. Boat trips lasting about 30 minutes are offered by two 70-passenger waterbuses, the LADY AMHURST and LADY CHARLOTTE. In August they were joined by a 140-passenger steel-hulled vessel named ALEXANDRA; she was built by Strong Marine Construction at Twickenham.

Misc Southend Pier is reportedly staying open after the town council's closure on 30 September; a private company is to run it until its future is decided by the council.

STRAITS OF DOVER - ENGLISH CHANNEL

Most cross-channel operators are continuing to offer very cheap excursion fares this autumn. Day returns from Dover to France are available for £4, while P & 0 has a non-landing fare of £2.90 to Boulogne. From Southampton, both Townsend Thoresen and P & 0 have various arrangements, some including free spirits, wine and cigarettes.

SOUTH COAST

Boscombe Sea Cruises When returning from Yarmouth to Boscombe on 25 September, the ISLAND QUEEN fouled her propeller on some lobster pots and drifted onto rocks off Hengistbury Head where she was holed. The 31 passengers were taken off by lifeboats and a heli-copter. The vessel was towed into Christchurch Harbour and beached to be patched before being towed to Cowes for permanent repairs. The owner has stated that she will return to service next year.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The CALEDONIAN PRINCESS is expected to continue in service from Weymouth in November until the EARL GRANVILLE is ready.

Condor The CONDOR 6 is owned by her Norwegian builders and registered at Kristiansand. Condor had chartered her for six months but announced in September that the charter would not be renewed. The reasons seem to be both financial and technical; the craft was larger than Condor's hydrofoils and had gas-turbine water-jet propulsion instead of diesel-driven propellers.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Mrs N E I Glinn, Plymouth The CORAL STAR is out of service and is being offered for sale.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell An unusual additional sailing was advertised for 27 September - an all-day cruise from Bristol, Portishead and Penarth in the upper Channel, with a landing by launch at Steep Holm, returning to Avonmouth. The last advertised sailing of the season is on 14 October from Penarth and Ilfracombe to Lundy.

WEST WALES

Caldey Boat Service The 36-ft SUE GINA is for sale for £8750.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Cromford Canal Society has obtained a second vessel to run with the JOHN GRAY. The 48-ft cabin cruiser MARJORIE A has been permanently loaned to the Society and was delivered by road to Cromford in July. As well as converting her to carry passengers, the Society hopes to replace her diesel engine with steam or electric propulsion.

NORTH WEST

Bithells (Boats), Chester The PRINCESS ANNE has been offered for "quick sale" with delivery after 30 September.

D Leigh, Morecambe The LADY BARBARA has been advertised for sale for £6500.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE has been withdrawn from service and is awaiting sale, probably for scrap. Her final calls, all in August, were Ardrossan 3rd, Belfast 9th, Fleetwood 10th, Dublin 22nd, Douglas and Llandudno 27th. A ro/ro cargo service is to start next summer using a chartered ship and a ramp has been ordered for Douglas; the Co's two cargo ships will be sold. The MANXMAN began her winter lay-up on 6 September and was joined in Morpeth Dock, Birkenhead, by the MANX MAID on the 15th and the BEN-MY-CHREE at the end of the month.

Manx Line Now managed by Sealink UK from a Preston office, the MANX VIIKING'S originally advertised winter schedule has been reduced from ten to eight round trips a week. She has run reliably this summer, but on 26 September a gearbox failed; she went to Barrow for repairs while Townsend Thoresen's VIKING III was chartered from the 28th to maintain the service.

MISCELLANY

The former TORBAY CLIPPER, sold by Torbay Seaways last winter, is again on the market - at Mostyn in North Wales. It is not known whether she has been in service there this year.

The TUDOR PRINCE has remained laid-up at Ramsey, Isle of Man, since purchase by Mr G Donnan, and is still being advertised for sale for £25 000.

Offshore Workboats' converted mfv GRANNY KEMPOCK has been advertised for sale for £18 000. She has been under charter in oil-related work at Stornoway.

 © G P Hamer 

# TRIP OUT

**November 1980**

As in previous Novembers, I have compiled a list of the UK's largest excursion fleets. The figures for gross tonnage and passenger capacity are the totals for vessels used for pleasure trips last summer. Last year's positions are given in brackets.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Caledonian MacBrayne | 1824 |
| 2(2) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 3(3) | BR (Windermere) | 825 |
| 4(-) | George Wheeler | 770 |
| 5(-) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 713 |
| 6(4) | Waverley Steam Nav Co | 693 |
| 7(5) | P & A Campbell | 688 |
| 8(6) | Woods River Services | 620 |
| 9(7) | Salter Bros | 493 |
| 10(8) | Catamaran Cruisers | 464 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | BR (Windermere) | 2564 |
| 2(4) | George Wheeler | 2273 |
| 3(2) | Salter Bros | 2258 |
| 4(3) | Caledonian MacBrayne | 2100 |
| 5(5) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 1647 |
| 6(10) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1472 |
| 7(7) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 1256 |
| 8(-) | Millbrook Steamboat | 1248 |
| 9(8) | Waverley Steam Nav Co | 1225 |
| 10(9) | Broads Tours | 1178 |

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THAMES

Summer services between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich ended on 2 November. The winter schedule follows the pattern of recent years', with departures from Westminster every half hour from 1030 until 1500 to Tower and Greenwich, then at 1530 and 1600 to Tower only.

Capital Cruises The SPIRIT OF LONDON is offering a 2½-hour dinner cruise from Lambeth on four nights a week. A feature is that the caterers are apparently dressed as pirates - "be served by real pirates" say the ads. For this experience passengers are charged £7.95.

Salter Bros The new vessel has yet to enter service and it is not known when fitting out will be complete.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The City of Portsmouth has awarded a £1.3 million contract for the construction of a new Isle of Wight car ferry terminal on the opposite side of the Outer Camber from the present berth. The building of a new Fishbourne terminal and the ordering of new ships are still delayed.

M J Rayment, Cowes Last season, the JENNY LEE was joined by a 52-passenger boat named GIRL ALISON. Its former identity is not known. She has been on the market again, however, for £6500.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail Next year's brochure has been published already. Weymouth sailings are increased from two to three weekly in the new year. The two-ship service from Weymouth operates from 10 April to 31 October. The Portsmouth service (to be maintained by the EARL GRANVILLE) is daily from 17 May to 2 October and otherwise six times weekly.

Condor The winter schedule which began on 26 October is much reduced and consists of a daily round trip from St-Malo to Jersey only. The service is suspended from 16 November to 13 February - the first break for four years. The Jersey service resumes on 14 February but the other islands will not be served again until 15 March.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The accounts for the year up to 31 March show turnover of £985 749 (19% more than the previous year's) and a trading profit of £263 461 (up 36%). The net profit was £20 708 after tax, etc, and after setting aside an additional amount towards the ship's eventual replacement. To try to reduce costs, the winter service has been reduced from three to two trips weekly. The SCILLONIAN III now sails from Penzance on Tuesdays and Thursdays, returning from St Mary's the next day. She is due for refit this month when the service will be suspended for about two weeks.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet The business has been advertised for sale for £30 000, or the boats will be sold separately. The owner, Mr Nicholas Gray, started running the narrow boat REDSHANK in Bristol in 1974 and added the TOWER BELLE in 1977. Also included with the business are the butty GREENSHANK (not certificated for passengers) and the booking office - a "gipsy" caravan.

Bristol & Bath Cruisers The FLOWER OF BRISTOL is 60 ft long and was built by David Abels at Bristol's Albion Dockyard. She is apparently a sister of the JOSEPH PRIESTLEY of Semington which is under the same ownership. Charter trips in the City Docks and up the River Avon are being offered all year round.

P & A Campbell Because of the weather on 10 October, passengers on the annual trip to St Ives were sent in coaches from Ilfracombe. The BALMORAL attempted to reach St Ives but had to turn back off Trevose Head. She eventually got to St Ives two days later in time to bring the passengers back to the Bristol Channel on the 13th. She is now laid up in Bristol.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE has been sold to Dutch breakers. She left the Mersey on the afternoon of 30 October for Rotterdam towed by the AFON LAS. The Steam Packet Co had been negotiating a sale for use as a floating pub on the Thames but this fell through when it was realised that she could not fit under the bridges.

MISCELLANY

The GRANNY KEMPOCK, mentioned in the last issue, is owned by a Mr Batty and not by Offshore Workboats. Batty had advertised her for sale, but she sank at Stornoway on the night of 25-26 October.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 November 1980

# TRIP OUT

**December 1980**

The most astonishing recent news is the purchase of the Isle of Wight ferry SHANKLIN to run with the paddle steamer WAVERLEY. As the last of her type and as a regular visitor to southern England, the WAVERLEY is of national importance and anything which jeopardizes her future needs examining.

The SHANKLIN is bigger than the WAVERLEY, is nearly 30 years old and has a defective engine; her maintenance costs are therefore likely to be higher than the WAVERLEY's. Much money will have to be spent on refitting the SHANKLIN at the very time money is needed for the WAVERLEY's new boiler. Trading prospects are poor - with a summer certificate for 1377 passengers and 33 crew, the SHANKLIN will be very difficult to run profitably, especially in a depressed area like Clydeside. Other motorships on the Clyde - the GLEN SANNOX and QUEEN OF SCOTS - have suffered very poor financial returns.

We must hope that when this two-ship venture fails, the SHANKLIN can be quickly disposed of, and that the WAVERLEY will somehow sail on. The people who have paid for the SHANKLIN are, of course, quite entitled to spend their money as they wish, but they should not be allowed to endanger the WAVERLEY's future, particularly after so many people have supported the steamer over the years.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY is due to visit England twice in 1981. During the first visit, she will sail on the Thames (30 April - 5 May), Humber (7-12 May) and the Tees and Tyne (14-26 May), then on the Firth of Forth, Moray Firth and Belfast Lough before returning to the Clyde in the second half of June. In September, she is expected to visit the Bristol Channel and South Coast; the owners hope to use the PRINCE IVANHOE (ex SHANKLIN) to maintain a Clyde service while the WAVERLEY is away.

NORTH EAST

British Rail (Humber) The Transport Users' Consultative Committee has concluded that the main hardship that would arise from the closure of the Humber ferry would be the increased cost of using the alternative bus service. The opening date of the Humber Bridge has yet to be announced, but the ferry service seems likely to cease immediately after the Bridge's opening.

THAMES

Greenwich Pleasure Craft are continuing to operate a service from Charing Cross to Tower and Greenwich this winter.

F & B Boat Co, Kingston, has bought the WINDSOR CONSORT from Windsor Boats. She replaces the SKYLARK X which has been for sale.

E G Harris, Maidenhead, has bought the BELLE from the Worcester Steamer Co and intends to use her for charter trips. Built in 1894, the 76-ft wooden vessel has been laid-up since the end of the 1978 season. She changed hands for £3000 in August and was taken by road to the Thames, where she is now being refitted at Brentford. Mr Harris, who owns a dredging business, is forming the Maidenhead Steam Navigation Co to run the BELLE and plans to fit a steam engine eventually, though she will be diesel-engined next season.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The SHANKLIN has been bought by Terry Sylvester and other individuals for operation by the Waverley Steam Navigation Co on the Clyde. She had been laid-up since February following the discovery of major engine defects. She sailed north on one engine, arriving in Glasgow on 21 November, and is to be renamed PRINCE IVANHOE. IoW fares rose on 30 November when rail fares were increased. A single ticket to Ryde is now £1.55 (up from £1.35) and a crossing on one of the car ferry routes costs £1.36 (£1.18). A day return from Portsmouth to Ryde is £2.50.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The CALEDONIAN PRINCESS was replaced by the EARL GODWIN from 16 November, but she has another spell on the CI service in the new year. Next summer, she will be based at Dover, offering a morning service to Calais and an afternoon trip to Boulogne.

WEST OF ENGLAND

G N Harper, Torquay, introduced the SERENITY last season. Built of steel by David Abels at Bristol, she works with the other small vessels to Brixham and the River Dart.

WEST WALES

A 56-passenger waterbus, apparently named PILA-PALA, which has run from Cardigan on the River Teifi for three years, is for sale for £19 500.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE, sold for scrap in October, apparently realised about £60 000.

Manx Line James Fisher & Sons are disposing of their 40% share in the Manx Line. BR has increased its share to 80% and the remaining 20% is to be sold. The service was taken over by the ANTRIM PRINCESS in mid-October, but the MANX VIKING is now believed to have resumed service.

# TRIP OUT

**January 1981**

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NORTH EAST

British Rail (Humber) The opening of the Humber Bridge has been postponed yet again and is now expected in April.

THAMES

Greenwich Pleasure Craft A 120-ft vessel to carry over 300 passengers is to be built at the Greenwich yard of the parent company, Thos W Hughan & Co. It will have a "Mississippi" appearance with a mock stern wheel and will operate mainly on evening charters. The deaigner is Don Tate who was responsible for the NATICIA, the SOUTHERN COMFORTs of Horning and Wargrave, and several other passenger vessels.

F & B Boat Co, Kingston The WINDSOR CONSORT has been renamed ALPHA III and has already been used this winter for evening parties.

Windsor Boat Co Following the sale of the WINDSOR CONSORT, her near-sister, the WINDSOR CROWN, has been placed on the market.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The SHANKLIN's new owner is a company called Gorto Ltd; the application to rename her PRINCE IVANHOE was published in December.

Hovertravel The Southampton-Cowes service, operated under the name "Solent Seaspeed", closed on 24 December. The Southsea-Ryde service continues and is now the only remaining hovercraft service within the British Isles.

Croson On 26 December, the POOLE BELLE made a morning 2½-hr cruise around Poole Harbour in connection with yacht races; the public were invited aboard free of charge. Following last season's poor traffic, the DORSET BELLE will come into service a month later than normal and only a two-vessel service will be provided in June.

Misc Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners want to demolish the wooden pier, built in 1876, because of its poor condition. It is used by Croson, Boscombe Sea Cruises and Blue Funnel Cruises, but an alternative berth would be made available if the pier is closed.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL GODWIN's crew went on strike on 2 January at Weymouth in support of the NUS's pay claim, but were due to resume the next day after passengers had spent a night aboard.

Longhaven Marine This Jersey-based company has announced that it will open a year-round ferry service from Southampton next autumn. A 1200-passenger car ferry is said to be undergoing conversion on the continent.

WEST OF ENGLAND

St Mawes Ferry Co The 80-passenger open boat PRINCESS MARINA has been advertised for sale for £6500.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co This year the daily (except Sun) service runs from 10 April to 12 October, with a double sailing on Saturdays from 23 May to 5 September. A cheap winter fare of £6 is now available but from 1 April a single journey will cost £10 - £1 more than last year.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell Despite very poor traffic last season, there are few changes to the schedule for 1981. The Saturday Swansea-Ilfracombe service will include an afternoon Gower Coast cruise. The Lynmouth and Porlock Bay trip will in July and August be offered on Fridays while there will be an extra Lundy trip instead on Wednesdays. Minehead and Porthcawl will receive more calls but there will be no landings at Clovelly, though there will be a cruise off Clovelly on some Mondays. Sailings from Penarth, Swansea and Ilfracombe will begin at Easter. Amongst special trips before and after the main season will be two to land at Steep Holm and three to Watchet and Minehead. Coupon books giving £4-worth of travel for £3 are available till 28 February from the Co's office in Swansea. The Cardiff office is now closed.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Pullman Marine, Stratford The waterbus GIGI has been advertised for sale after running on the River Avon for three seasons.

Severn Steamboat Co, Stourport The 149-passenger MISS JASON, smallest member of the fleet, has been placed on the market for £22 500.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The summer schedule shows few changes from previous years', but the sale of the MONA'S ISLE means fewer Llandudno-Douglas trips and the complete withdrawal of the Liverpool to Llandudno sailings. The Co had offered the trips each season since 1963 except 1967. There are more Belfast sailings this year. The MANXMAN is expected to be in service from 23 May to 5 September and visits all ports, though she has only one scheduled Ardrossan sailing and only six from Fleetwood. For its new ro-ro cargo service from Liverpool, the Co is to charter the N F JAGUAR from P & O.

British Rail (Manx Line) The MANX VIKING remained off service during December and was at Belfast for engine repairs.

MISCELLANY

The ps TATTERSHALL CASTLE is to be sold by auction in London on 28 January and the owner, Mr Childs, expects her to realise £350 000. The ship has been moored off the Embankment in London for five years and used as an art gallery, but Mr Childs is no longer able to continue subsidising it.

 © G P Hamer 4 January 1981

# TRIP OUT

**February 1981**

On 25 May 1887, the white-funnelled paddle steamer WAVERLEY, owned by the Campbell family, made her first excursion on the Bristol Channel. The fleet expanded to include some of the finest pleasure steamers to sail around the British coasts. Now, after eighty-nine seasons, its history is over.

The company's demise is not unexpected. Last April, 'Trip Out' commented, "The BALMORAL will struggle on for another season" and asked "what happens in 1981 and beyond ?" It was unthinkable that the Landmark Trust would go on paying heavy subsidies to Campbells, especially as the BALMORAL's condition was so poor. Any lingering respect for Campbells will surely have been lost by the way next season's sailings were advertised before the necessary subsidy had been agreed.

Whilst the BALMORAL's end was predictable, her partial replacement by the former SHANKLIN was not. Her prospects cannot be assessed until definite arrangements for the new service are agreed, but financial results from a limited high-season service on the Bristol Channel ought to be better than they would have been on the Firth of Clyde.

We must hope that Campbells' many supporters will not spend the summer mourning the company's passing or blaming the Landmark Trust for not continuing its subsidy. The PRINCE IVANHOE will need practical support and not just the sycophantic writing which has gushed onto the pages of other journals in recent years - one well-known shipping magazine even described last season's temporary arrangement as a "New era for Bristol Channel services." Now that a new era really does seem to have started, it will take a little luck and a lot of hard work if it is to last longer than a season.

Geoffrey Hamer

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EAST ANGLIA

Essex Marina has advertised for someone to lease its boatbuilding facilities and to take over the operation of the passenger ferry from Burnham-on-Crouch to the Marina.

THAMES

Carter's River Cruises, Westminster The KINGSTON is still on the market with the price now quoted as £120 000. A sale at this figure seems most unlikely.

French Bros, Runnymede Last season's new service to Hampton Court is being repeated on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 18 May to 13 September. A 2-hour cruise is offered on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from Easter to October, in addition to the daily 35-minute cruises.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust The Devizes and Pewsey Branch has been trying to raise loans to purchase a new trip boat for next season; their present vessel, the CHARLOTTE DUNDAS, would be retained for short trips.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL GRANVILLE is now expected to enter service in March. This month, "nightflyer" excursions from Portsmouth to Guernsey are available for £12 which includes a bottle of spirits and two bottles of wine. The continuing dispute with the NUS has led to some cancellations on both CI routes. Looking ahead, BR proposes to replace the three present ships with two larger ships carrying up to 1800 passengers by the late-1980s.

Vedettes Blanches The SOLIDOR was due to be off service for refit from 13 January to 5 February.

Condor The CONDOR 3 was renamed COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO by her new Uruguayan owners last year.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell In January, it became known that the Landmark Trust was not willing to pay any further subsidy to maintain excursion sailings and so the programme advertised for 1981 will not be carried out. The BALMORAL made the company's final passenger sailing on 14 October. Coupon books and season tickets are still being offered, however, and Campbells have stated that they will be valid on the WSN Co's ships; the offer has been extended till 31 March and 'Trip Out' readers are recommended to delay any purchases until the financial position is clarified. Campbells' accounts for 1978 and 1979 were made available for public inspection last December. In 1978, turnover was £322 439 with a pre-tax loss of £103 253. In 1979, turnover was down to £270 616 and the loss was £10 191.

Waverley Steam Navigation Co proposes to use the PRINCE IVANHOE on the Bristol Channel in the first half of May and again in July and August; she will run on the Firth of Clyde in late-May, June and September. The WAVERLEY is expected to spend part of June on the Bristol Channel. A similar range of sailings to the BALMORAL's will be offered, but with fewer Swansea trips.

WEST WALES

Caldey Boat Service The 36-ft DAWN has been offered for sale for £6500.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The Liverpool-Llandudno trips carried only 4000 passengers in their last season while the cruises from Llandudno took 7000. Since sixteen trips were actually operated, the average loading was 250 from Liverpool and about 440 on the afternoon cruises. Preliminary results for 1980 show a net profit of £678 392, compared with £1 075 229 in 1979. Some sailings have been lost over the past month through strike action by the NUS.

MISCELLANY

The TATTERSHALL CASTLE failed to reach her reserve price when offered for auction on 28 January. There were only two bidders, both British, and the highest bid was for £300 000.

On the market for £20 000 in Ireland is Galley Cruising Restaurants' ROSS, a converted Leeds & Liverpool Canal boat.

British Rail's turbine steamers AVALON and CAESAREA have both been sold and have departed for Asia; the AVALON, at least, is to be broken up.

# TRIP OUT

**March 1981**

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NORTH EAST

D B Connelly, Bridlington The BRIDLINGTON QUEEN has been sold to Mr A K Connelly of Bridlington and Mr P L Wardill who plan to run her on the Firth of Tay as the TAY QUEEN. Sailings start in late-May with trips from Broughty Ferry to Perth (2½ hours each way) when tides permit and cruises to the Tay Bridges on other days. Mr D B Connelly will continue to operate the FLAMBORIAN from Bridlington.

Mid Tyne Ferries The TYNE LADY, a new 62-ft 240-passenger vessel, is joining the fleet this year.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours The EMPRESS has been sold for service from Norwich.

C J Lovewell, Norwich, has acquired the EMPRESS to run with the PRINCESS VICTORIA. Public trips will normally be made by the EMPRESS. The steam launch PRINCESS MARGARET is no longer in service.

Viscountess (Marine) Charters This new company has taken over the VISCOUNTESS BURY from Banham Marine and will continue to run her on charter work from Ely.

THAMES

R G (Passenger Launches), Erith A third catamaran, the TWIN STAR III, is joining the fleet this year and replaces the DARTHULA II.

Catamaran Cruisers After failing to find a buyer last year, the VICEROY is being rebuilt with an enclosed upper deck and is now on the market for £68 000. The ABERCORN has also been advertised, for £145 000.

J G French, Walton-on-Thames, will be running a new 58-ft 120-passenger boat named WALTON MONARCH this year.

Windsor Boat Co The WINDSOR CONSORT and CROWN are being replaced by two larger vessels being built at the firm's yard. To be named WINDSOR MAJESTY and WINDSOR SCEPTRE, they are sisters of the 150-passenger WINDSOR SOVEREIGN.

D & T Scenic's, Reading, have bought the RICHMOND GEM from the Abingdon Marine Co and will use her for short cruises from Reading.

Better Boating Co, Abingdon The ST DAVID has been advertised for sale for £11 950.

SOUTH COAST

M J Rayment, Cowes, is building a 38-ft boat to carry about 58 passengers; to be named JENNY ANN, she will replace the GIRL ALISON.

S Crane, Keyhaven Last season's fleet consisted of the HAVEN ROSE, SOLENT ROSE (ex STAR QUEEN 3 of Hamble) and WIGHT ROSE (ex FELICITY). The HAVEN ROSE is being replaced by a new 38-ft 59-passenger boat named WILD ROSE.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co L'ESPRIT DE SERK was badly damaged on 13 February when she was crushed against the quay at St Peter Port by a cargo ship.

Service Maritime, Carteret, is apparently now under the same ownership as the Compagnie Côte des Isles of Portbail, and the two services are being promoted together. A new service by the PEGASUS is a series of excursions from Cherbourg to Guernsey, offered on twelve dates in July and August.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co The LADY ELIZABETH, which in recent seasons operated on charter to Mr B Curtin, has been sold for service from Kingsbridge. Mr Curtin now normally uses the EDGCUMBE BELLE for his summer service to Drake's Island.

P J Moule, Kingsbridge, has bought the LADY ELIZABETH to run with the RIVER MAID on trips to Salcombe.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell A statement has admitted that last season's service incurred a "substantial loss" although 180 000 passengers were carried. The BALMORAL and DEVONIA have been advertised for sale as "two well kept day passenger vessels."

Bristol Packet Mr Gray has sold the business and the new principal is a Mr Thomson; the REDSHANK and TOWER BELLE will continue to operate as before.

R Lewis, Chepstow, will not be running trips on the River Wye this season. The INDEPENDENCE, which has offered the trips for five years, has been sold to a Mr Bungard for service in Bristol.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Severn & Canal Carrying Co has bought the narrow boat GARY from Avon Cruises (Bath) and has renamed her SABRINA for trips on the Severn from Haw Bridge. The business is run by Mr Alan Picken who until 1979 traded as Water Folk and ran the CEDAR from Dunhampstead. He is also restoring the Coombe Hill Canal near Gloucester and plans to offer horse-drawn trips along it in 1982.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE announced on 11 February that to cut costs, one of the three ferry vessels will be sold and the ROYAL IRIS will be used as a relief ferry at peak times.

Colliery Narrow Boat Co, Northwich The GOLBORNE, a 70-ft electric narrow boat was built by the owner last year and will enter service this season, joining the diesel-engined BRACKLEY.

Others Of the five boats listed plying from Blackpool beach in 'Trip Out 1979/80', only Mr Stanhope's JOHN LEE still has a passenger certificate. Mr Boardman's PATRICIA still runs but is limited to 12 passengers. The whereabouts of the other boats which once served the resort are not known.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The number of staying visitors carried to the island last season was about 5% less than in 1979. The drop in the number of day trippers was 25% which is blamed mainly on the poor weather. The MANX MAID was refitted on the Mersey in January and resumed service in February, replacing the MONA'S QUEEN which began her refit on the Clyde on 13 February.

MISCELLANY

The former Humber ferry LINCOLN CASTLE is due to be moved to her new berth at Hessle on about 8 March and will open as a floating restaurant in April.

The Clyde steamer QUEEN MARY arrived in the Thames under tow on 2 February and is apparently to become a floating Chinese restaurant.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 1 March 1981

# TRIP OUT

**April 1981**

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Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY begins her 1981 English sailings on 24 April at Poole. During the following two weekends, she sails on 25 April on charter from Bournemouth round the Isle of Wight, on the 26th from Newhaven, Eastbourne and Hastings, on 2 May from London, Tilbury, Southend and Deal to the French coast, on the 3rd from London to Southend and on the 4th from London to Southend and Gillingham. Details of subsequent sailings on the Humber and from the Tees and Tyne will be available shortly.

NORTH EAST

W Shiel, Seahouses A new 39-ft 59-passenger boat named GLAD TIDINGS joined the fleet in 1979. A sister, the GLAD TIDINGS IV, is being introduced this year to bring the fleet up to four boats.

EAST ANGLIA

J E Knight, Great Yarmouth The GOLDEN GALLEON has been advertised for sale for £75 000.

Essex Marina The 'Caribbean'-type waterbus MAPLIN was sold in the winter of 1979/80 to Mr J Sweeney of Sligo for cruises on Lough Gill. In addition to the Burnham ferry, she had been used for cruises on the River Crouch, but these have now ceased.

THAMES

The Greater London Council's pier charges are being increased by around 50% this year to try to reduce losses.

To carry spectators of the London Marathon race on 29 March, services from Westminster and Charing Cross to Greenwich were advertised to start at 0800 - 2½ hours earlier than normal. On 4 April, the Boat Race was followed by two passenger boats, the QUEEN ELIZABETH and HURIINGHAM.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust The CHARLOTTE DUNDAS is being sold and the Devizes & Pewsey Branch will not be running any trips until a new passenger boat is obtained, possibly later this year.

SOUTH COAST

Portsmouth City Council intends to close the Eastney to Hayling ferry which has operated at a loss for some years.

Blue Funnel Cruises The ISLAND SCENE (possibly accompanied by her sister) is being chartered by British Rail on 23 May for a cruise from Gosport to Yarmouth and the Needles. The fare of £10 includes the return fare from any Southern Region station and a buffet lunch and afternoon tea.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL GRANVILLE entered service from Portsmouth on 29 March. She is owned by a subsidiary of Williams & Glyn's Bank which is leasing her to BR for ten years.

Condor To maintain a fleet of three craft, a hydrofoil is being chartered this summer. The craft, to be known as CONDOR 2, was built in 1969 and is presumably the Italian FRECCIA ADRIATICA which was chartered in 1969 and 1970. The season started on 16 March. The full three-craft service runs from 4 May to 13 September.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The PRINCE IVANHOE is due on the Bristol Channel at the end of April and will run for about three weeks before returning to Scotland.

Bristol Ferry Boat Co is the trading name adopted by Mr Ian Bungard who has taken over the service formerly operated by City Docks Ventures. In addition, he will be running hourly cruises around the City Docks from Cumberland Basin with the INDEPENDENCE.

F W Irwin, Ilfracombe, is retiring from the operation of the ELIZABETH which has been taken over by Mr J H Thomas.

NORTH WEST

Arfon Borough Council says it is "very unlikely" that a ferry service will be offered on the Menai Straits this summer. The NANTLYS ran in previous seasons between Menai Bridge, Bangor and Beaumaris.

Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port Horse-drawn trips are being introduced this year, starting at Easter. The narrow boat RYE, built in about 1960, was converted for passenger carrying by Braunston Canal Services who will be running the service. Trips will normally be operated at hourly intervals.

Manchester Ship Canal Co Because of the economic situation, the cruises around the docks have ceased. The waterbus M S C SILVER ARROW II was built specially for the trips in 1969 at Dartmouth.

MISCELLANY

The National Trust's 1980 visiting figures show the following totals for islands in its care: St Michael's Mount 170 000 (174 000 in 1979); Brownsea 116 000 (112 000); Farne 40 000 (48 000); Lundy, under 20 000.

In Scotland, the COUNTESS OF KEMPOCK has been offered for sale again; her owners are asking £45 000.

The LINCOLN CASTLE was moved to her new permanent berth at Hessle on 8 March.

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# TRIP OUT

**May 1981**

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Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY left Glasgow on the evening of 21 April and sailed direct to Poole, taking 38 hours without needing to stop for fuel. Her new boiler has proved most satisfactory but her diesel generators are noisier than expected. She has sailed on the South Coast and Thames as scheduled but, with little advance publicity, patronage has been poorer than in previous years. Deal Pier, damaged by gales last November, can no longer be used so she called at Ramsgate instead. She runs on the Humber from Hull, New Holland and Goole from 8 to 12 May, then goes northwards, remaining in England till 25 May. Scheduled ports of call are Scarborough, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Newcastle, South Shields, North Shields and Blyth. After visiting the Firth of Forth and the West of Scotland, she runs on the Bristol Channel from 8 to 22 June.

THAMES

Services between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich resumed their summer schedules on 13 April; Westminster-Kew trips began on the 14th and sailings were extended to Hampton Court over Easter for the first time in several years.

Greenwich Pleasure Craft The new 120-ft "Mississippi-style" vessel is nearing completion at the parent company's Greenwich yard and is to be named ELIZABETHAN.

London Launches The ZODIAC has been withdrawn from the upriver service and has commenced cruises from Westminster to the Flood Barrier at Woolwich. Departures are advertised for 1000 and 1330 daily and the fare is £2.65.

George Wheeler Launches Another new vessel, the HOLLYWOOD, entered service from Westminster to Greenwich in April. She was built by the Yorkshire Dry Dock Co at Hull at a cost of £240 000, carries 297 passengers and apparently measures 187 grt. She is on a long-term charter from John I Jacobs & Co who also own the ROSEWOOD. Both vessels have similar hulls, but the HOLLYWOOD has only one passenger deck.

SOUTH COAST

Portsmouth City Council The Eastney to Hayling Island ferry was withdrawn on 31 March and the two boats are to be sold.

Southern Coastcrafts The HOTSPUR III has been withdrawn from service and was broken up in March. A replacement ferry vessel is to be obtained.

Croson The POOLE BELLE opened the season on 13 April, sailing twice-daily to the Dorset Lakes from the newly-rebuilt pier at Bournemouth.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The PRINCE IVANHOE arrived in the Bristol Channel on 30 April but in attempting to reach Bristol in darkness early the following morning, she grounded on a rock. She is being dry-docked for repairs and the first week's sailings have been cancelled. Public trips planned include visits to Steep Holm (9 May), Porthcawl and Mumbles (10th), Minehead and Watchet (16th) and Ilfracombe and Lundy Roads (17 May); she then returns to Scotland till late June. Sailing bills have been issued by P & A Campbell acting as agents for the operating company, Firth of Clyde Steam Packet Co. The PRINCE IVANHOE has a Class III certificate for 878 and a Class IV for 1341 - only slightly fewer than at Portsmouth and probably the highest ever for a Bristol Channel excursion vessel.

Others Advertisements have appeared in the shipping press asking for a second-hand day passenger/cargo ship to carry about 350 passengers on the Bristol Channel, presumably to serve Lundy. The name West Country Shipping and a Barnstaple address are used.

NORTH WEST

A C Freeman, Caernarfon The 46-ft glass fibre JUCARAN has been advertised for sale; she has run trips on the Menai Straits for the past five years.

Merseyside PTE Reduced timetables were introduced on 6 April; a single vessel operates alternately to Woodside and Seacombe, giving a crossing on each route every 40 minutes. In the morning and evening peaks, a second vessel allows a 20-minute frequency to be maintained. Evening crossings are curtailed, with the last trip at 2125 from Liverpool to Seacombe; the service formerly continued till around midnight.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The LADY OF MANN was on the Clyde for refit from 22 March to 15 April while the service was maintained by the BEN-MY-CHREE and MANX MAID. This month, a series of special excursions to the island is again being offered by Tours (Isle of Man) Ltd.

MISCELLANY

The 1980 accounts of the British Railways Board show a trading profit for the shipping division, Sealink UK Ltd, of £6.5 million, compared with £13.7 million in 1979.

In Scotland, the MAID OF BUTE has been placed on the market following the death of her owner, Mr A MacSween of Fort William.

The new owners of the Clyde steamer QUEEN MARY plan to berth her in London at the DISCOVERY's old berth below Waterloo Bridge. She will have bars and restaurants, including a Chinese restaurant.

 © G P Hamer 6 May 1981

# TRIP OUT

**June 1981**

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NORTH EAST

British Rail (Humber) The final sailings are expected to be on 7 June. Since 17 May, evening crossings after 1835 have been withdrawn because of staff losses.

THAMES

D Rose, Rochester The QUEEN OF KENT was advertised to open her season on 4 May. Southend trips run on Tuesdays from 7 July, Thursdays from 18 June, Saturdays from 4 July and Sundays from 24 May, leaving Rochester at 0915 and 1615, and Southend at 1115 and 1815. There is an afternoon river cruise on Wednesdays and (from 3 July) on Fridays, landing at Aylesford when tides permit. Evening cruises from Rochester and Strood are offered on Sats 20 and 27 June, then on Fridays in July and August.

Thames Cruises, Hampton Court The PRIDE OF TEST has been advertised for sale.

Kennet Cruises, Reading The LANCING is making two trips away from the Kennet this year; on 2-5 May she visited Brentford, Little Venice and Limehouse, while in September, she will be running some trips on the River Wey from Weybridge.

Better Boating Co, Abingdon, has bought the WINDSOR CROWN which has been renamed ABINGDON BELLE. She replaces the ST DAVID which has been on the market.

SOUTH COAST

Croson The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE entered service on 24 May on the local trips, allowing the POOLE BELLE to open the Isle of Wight service. IoW fares are as last year and other fares have been reduced to those of 1979; when the third vessel starts in late-June, fares are expected to rise. Bournemouth pier tolls are now included in IoW tickets booked in advance.

R C Greenslade, Poole, has introduced a new 'waterbus' named PAMMYANN. The EVA-MAY has been offered for sale for £20 000.

WEST OF ENGLAND

I Watts, Plymouth The main vessel on the Cawsand service this season is the WESTON MAID, a 64-passenger converted ship's lifeboat. The WESTON LADY is being kept in reserve.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The PRINCE IVANHOE was not ready to begin service till 15 May when she sailed on charter. After public trips on the 16th and 17th, she returned to Scotland. The WAVERLEY sails on the Bristol Channel from 8 to 22 June and adds three new ports of call - Lynmouth, Newport and Porthcawl. The PRINCE IVANHOE returns on 23 June and operates until 3 September. The main change from the schedule planned for Campbells' BALMORAL is that on alternate Saturdays, a sailing from Bristol or Penarth to Ilfracombe is offered instead of a Swansea-Ilfracombe service. Leaflets giving full details of the PRINCE IVANHOE's and WAVERLEY's sailings are enclosed.

Bristol and Bath Cruisers A second vessel, 50 ft long and with a capacity of 76 passengers, is being built by David Abels at Bristol.

NORTH WEST

Bithells Boats, Chester The LADY DIANA, a 65-ft steel-hulled saloon vessel, was delivered by Hancock & Lane of Daventry in April. Costing £60 000, she carries 164 passengers and is the first boat in the fleet with a bar. Her design is similar to that of the CAVERSHAM LADY of Reading. Two of the older wooden boats have been sold; the MAY QUEEN has gone to Sheffield and the PRINCESS ANNE to Bristol.

Merseyside PTE This year's Manchester Ship Canal cruises are on the weekends of 20-21 June and 19-20 September, sailing from Liverpool to Manchester on the Saturdays and in the reverse direction on the Sundays. The Manchester berth is now Trafford Wharf instead of Pomona Docks which were used in previous years. The single fare is £7.40; details from Co-op Travel in Manchester.

Bird's Sea Fishing, Fleetwood The PRINCESS ANNE has been offered for sale for £9500.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE came off service after Easter on 21 April. The MONA'S QUEEN returned from refit on the Clyde on 25 April. Special trips by Tours (Isle of Man) Ltd included sailings from Warrenpoint to Peel on 29 April and from Greenore to Douglas on 30 April. For the summer services, the BEN-MY-CHREE resumed service on 22 May and the MANXMAN began her season on the 23rd.

MISCELLANY

The former Gosport ferry VADNE, built in 1939 and used since 1966 as a clubhouse by Gosport Cruising Club, has been offered for sale and is being replaced by a new clubhouse.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 June 1981

# TRIP OUT

**July 1981**

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NORTH EAST

Donaldson & Pringle, Seahouses The OCEAN DAWN has been advertised for sale by her owners who are retiring. The boat came to Seahouses from Ramsgate in 1975.

British Rail (Humber) The Humber Bridge was finally opened to traffic on 24 June.

THAMES

Greenwich Pleasure Craft The ELIZABETHAN has entered service at Charing Cross. She has a stern wheel which turns in the wash from her propellers, and two funnels though these are normally folded down because of the bridges.

George Wheeler Launches, Westminster Following the introduction of the HOLLYWOOD on the Greenwich service, the KINGWOOD has been transferred back to the upriver service after an absence of five years. The wooden THAMES BRITANNIA, laid-up last summer, is no longer in the Wheeler fleet.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust The paddleboat CHARLOTTE DUNDAS has been sold for service on the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal.

SOUTH COAST

Blue Funnel Cruises The SOLENT QUEEN and VERDA have been offered for sale again; they were advertised previously along with the VENUS in 1977-78 when the ISLAND SCENE entered service, but then it was the VENUS which found a buyer.

Red Funnel The group's 1980 accounts show a trading profit of £1 171 511 (a fall of nearly 2% from 1979) on turnover of £7 065 408 (up 10%). There was a small increase in passenger traffic, a slight drop on the ships being offset by an increase on the hydrofoils.

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY returns to the south coast on 3 September for a charter from Newhaven and remains to offer public trips until 20 September, visiting Eastbourne, Newhaven, Worthing, Southsea, Ryde, Sandown, Southampton, Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail A fire broke out in the EARL GRANVILLE's engine room in the early hours of 22 June. 377 people were aboard, but the fire was put out and the ship returned safely to Portsmouth. She has been withdrawn indefinitely for repairs and the Portsmouth route is now shared by the EARL WILLIAM and the CALEDONIAN PRINCESS, transferred back from Dover.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co has had its exclusive concession for the Guernsey to Sark service renewed; there were apparently two other firms interested in taking over the service.

Misc A new Gare Maritime is being built at Saint-Malo for the Channel Island passenger ships and hydrofoils. A pontoon will have berths for four vessels and will be able to handle up to a million passengers a year when opened next spring. With associated dredging work, the total cost will be about £1.8 million.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The PRINCE IVANHOE's first spell of Bristol Channel service continued till 21 May, not as stated in last month's issue. The WAVERLEY suffered boiler trouble on 3 June off the west of Scotland and her arrival on the Bristol Channel was delayed while she visited the Clyde. The PRINCE IVANHOE was sent to take charters on 6 June from Bideford to Lundy and on the 7th. She remained for a further two days before the WAVERLEY arrived for a very successful and well patronised spell on the Bristol Channel. The PRINCE IVANHOE returned on 23 June but her early results have been poor partly through a lack of advertising.

Avon Cruises (Bath) The PRIDE OF BATH, a 72-ft long by 13-ft beam vessel, has been built by Springer Engineering of Market Harborough. She runs with the KINGFISHER OF BATH, replacing the GARY which was sold to the Severn & Canal Carrying Co.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

G H Rose & Son, Stratford The 64-ft MISTRESS QUICKLY has been advertised for sale, apparently because of the loss of her mooring.

NORTH WEST

Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port The horse-drawn narrow boat RYE, which entered service at Easter, carries 50 passengers. The April issue incorrectly gave the operators as Braunston Canal Services; the boat is actually owned and operated by Ann and Martin Toms.

Boatel Party Cruises, Chorley The converted barge CLAYMORE has been advertised for sale for £20 000. She has a current passenger certificate and is believed to be operating from Wigan as usual this season.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co began its roll-on cargo service on 18 June.

MISCELLANY

After months of uncertainty, Bass has confirmed the purchase of the KING GEORGE V, laid-up at Cardiff since 1975, to replace the OLD CALEDONIA as a floating pub in London. Her conversion work has started in Cardiff.

The Dutch car ferry SCHELLINGERLAND, built in 1932 as the Mersey ferry ROYAL IRIS II, has recently changed hands and has sailed for the Mediterranean, renamed GIRNE under the Cypriot flag.

 © G P Hamer 2 July 1981

# TRIP OUT

**August 1981**

Rarely has an excursion ship figured in the national news headlines as much as the PRINCE IVANHOE has this week. Our sympathies go to those involved in the tragedy and to those who had put so much money and effort into operating the ship on the Bristol Channel. The owners' main concern now should be to ensure the accident does not damage the WAVERLEY's prospects. The Bristol Channel, meanwhile, is left without an excursion ship and operators in all parts of the country will find it harder to persuade holiday-makers to take a trip, just at the time of year when fine weather should be bringing good trade.

Geoffrey Hamer

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NORTH EAST

British Rail (Humber) The FARRINGFORD made a special cruise with invited guests on 27 June after making the last ferry crossings on the 24th. She is now awaiting sale.

EAST ANGLIA

J N Blake & Son, Norwich The REGAL LADY has been offered for sale by shipbrokers H E Moss & Co.

THAMES

French Brothers, Runnymede, have bought the PILI PALA from Cardigan and renamed her THE NEW PRINCESS OF WALES. She is one of a number of similar vessels built at Brecon by Lawrence & Brown; she is steel-hulled and has enclosed seating for 56 passengers.

Thames Cruises, Radcot The business, including the narrow boat BATTERSEA, has been offered for sale for £15 000, with a tax loss apparently available. The business has been owned by Mr N Elwes since 1979.

SOUTH COAST

Blue Funnel Cruises A new excursion this season is from Ryde to Cherbourg in conjunction with Townsend Thoresen. Passengers are taken between Ryde and Southsea (Clarence Pier) by Blue Funnel and then by bus to the Continental Ferry Terminal. The trip is offered twice weekly for £13.50.

M Rayment, Cowes The new JENNY ANN has a glass fibre hull built by Aqua Star in Guernsey. An excursion to land at Buckler's Hard is being offered on some afternoons.

S Crane, Keyhaven The new WILD ROSE also has an Aqua Star hull. Besides a half-hourly ferry service to Hurst Castle, a cruise to the Needles is offered most afternoons and a trip to land at Yarmouth runs on some evenings in July and August.

Boscombe Sea Cruises The ISLAND QUEEN was arrested on 2 July following the issue of a writ for non-payment of a £2700 bill for repairs after her grounding last September. She resumed sailing on 5 July after settlement had been reached.

Croson The DORSET BELLE entered service on 19 July when the full summer schedule started and fares were increased. She had been slipped by the Dorset Lake Shipyard as the parent company's yard is being rebuilt.

R C Greenslade, Poole The new PAMMYANN has a wooden hull with a metal superstructure similar in profile to that of Croson's BELLEs.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL WILLIAM touched the seabed at St Helier on 4 July and, after returning to Weymouth the next day, sailed to Falmouth for dry docking. Her sailings were cancelled until the EARL SIWARD could be transferred from Holyhead. The CALEDONIAN PRINCESS had to return to Portsmouth with boiler trouble on the morning of 11 July, missing one round trip to the islands. The EARL GRANVILLE took over the Portsmouth service on 16 July after completion of her repairs.

WEST OF ENGLAND

R J Ould, Torquay, took delivery last winter of the 42-ft steel-hulled CHB SARA SARA II, built at Torpoint by S & A Boats. She is used for fishing out of season, but summer trips from Torquay Harbour include excursions to Teignmouth.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Steam Navigation Co During a Gower Coast cruise on 3 August, the PRINCE IVANHOE struck submerged rocks off Port Eynon Point at about 1530. Three hull compartments were holed and she began taking in water rapidly. She headed for Port Eynon Bay where the master, Captain David Neill, grounded her in 10 ft of water about 100 yards from the beach. Over 400 people were taken off by lifeboats and other small craft but one passenger, Mr R Holyoak of Penarth, collapsed and died from a heart attack after being rescued. The passengers were taken home from Port Eynon by coaches. The ship was later covered by the tide to bridge deck level. Possible salvage is being considered. Earlier, on 6 July, a rope around her propeller caused her to hit two fishing boats at Minehead. She proceeded to Ilfracombe but her passengers were returned by coach and the rope was cleared in Ilfracombe Harbour before she resumed service the next day.

NORTH WEST

A C Freeman, Caernarfon The JUCARAN has apparently been sold after being advertised for £26 000. Trips from Caernarfon to Fort Belan have ceased, but a smaller vessel offers short trips from the Fort.

Showboat at Gathurst The owner of the SHOWBOAT, which began running from Gathurst last summer, appears to be a Mr A A Schanzl of Wigan.

MISCELLANY

A subsidiary of the Grand Metropolitan Group (which includes Watneys) has applied for a drinks licence for the ps TATTERSHALL CASTLE. If successful, they will purchase her and open her as a pub and restaurant at her present mooring alongside the Embankment.

# TRIP OUT

**September 1981**

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NORTH EAST

During the Inland Waterways Association's national rally at Leeds on 15-16 August, a frequent service to Thwaite Mills was offered by six passenger boats, the APOLLO, CALDER LADY, FAIR MAIDEN, PUDSEY NAVIGATOR, WATER PRINCE and WYRE LADY.

THAMES

The up-river service from Westminster to Kew and Hampton Court has been worked this year by eight boats instead of nine, as Harbourside Investments' NUNEHAM has not been in use. The number of Hampton Court trips has been reduced from four to three daily. There have been more sailings on the Richmond to Hampton Court section as the THAMES QUEEN *has* returned to service after being idle last year. At Tower Pier, the VAROS has not been in commission this season but schedules have not been reduced.

Capital Cruises/DCW Tours have begun running the DUCHESS M which has been laid-up awaiting sale since 1979 when she was rebuilt and renamed from the former Gosport ferry VESTA. She is being used for various disco and restaurant trips from Westminster, Lambeth and other piers.

E B Smith, Westminster The FORDSON has been advertised for sale for £52 000. She is still running to Kew and Hampton Court this season.

SOUTH COAST

Waverley Steam Navigation Co Following the loss of the PRINCE IVANHOE, the WAVERLEY is staying on the Firth of Clyde this month and her south coast sailinga have been cancelled.

Portsmouth City Council The two former Hayling Island ferries are being offered for sale and intending purchasers have to obtain tender documents by 18 September. Both are open launches, the IRIS being built of glass fibre and the IRENE of wood.

A W Isaacs, Alum Bay The MAVERICK has been replaced by the 80-passenger MAID MARION, previously operated on Southampton Docks cruises by Mr C Foley. Her normal cruise around the Needles lasts 20 minutes.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M D Barrow, Exmouth/Torquay The new DEVON PRINCESS II was completed in July and was christened by Mr Herbert Jennings, original owner of the DEVON PRINCESS, at Exmouth on 1 August. She was built by R W Davis at Saul near Gloucester, though most of the fitting-out was done at Torquay by the owner. She was designed by John Teale, who was also responsible for the JUBILEE QUEEN of Padstow, and is said to have cost £150 000. She measures 49.95 grt and has Class V and VI certificates for 185 and 170 passengers, respectively. She is based at Exmouth for trips to Torquay and the River Dart while the DEVON PRINCESS is out of use and the PRIDE OF THE BAY makes day trips from Torquay to the River Dart with time ashore at Dartmouth.

R J Elworthy, Plymouth, has acquired the DARTHULA II, previously used on the Dagenham ferry service, and is using her for cruises round the Dockyard from Pebbleside Beach. Her capacity is now apparently 96 passengers. She has been placed on the market again already at a price of £25 000.
S Jones, Falmouth, has ceased operating and there are no longer any trips to St Anthony-in-Roseland. The TEMPTRESS still runs from Falmouth for new owners, but offers angling trips only.

BRISTOL CHANNEL
P & A Campbell The BALMORAL and DEVONIA, still awaiting sale, have been moved from Bristol to Avonmouth. The two ships' 1500 lifejackets are being sold separately at £5 each.
Waverley Steam Navigation Co The PRINCE IVANHOE's owners have stated that she will not be returned to service as the cost has been estimated at £300 000.
West Country Shipping, which advertised last spring for a ship to run on the Bristol Channel, was formed by Mr L Martin, a former purser on the BALMORAL. He now hopes to find a ship to run next season in place of the PRINCE IVANHOE.
F E Watts, Weston The IVANHOE suffered an engine failure on a trip to Steep Holm on 18 August. 40 passengers spent six hours adrift before the boat was towed back to Weston.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS
Montgomery Canal Cruises has been formed to run trips on a restored section of the canal north of Welshpool. The LINNET, a 49-ft 35-passenger narrow boat, was built by M Hayward at Stoke-on-Trent and offers public and charter trips, including dinner cruises.

NORTH WEST
National Trust The steamboat GONDOLA has an additional calling point this year, Park-a-Moor, on the south-east side of Lake Coniston. She makes four trips round the lake daily (except Mondays) from her base at Coniston Pier.

MISCELLANY
The KING GEORGE V, undergoing conversion in dry dock in Cardiff, was gutted by fire during the night of 25/26 August. She was being refitted for Bass Charrington to take the place of the OLD CALEDONIA in London, but this plan has now been abandoned.

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# TRIP OUT

**October 1981**

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NORTH EAST

British Rail (Humber) Western Ferries are interested in purchasing the FARRINGFORD and have paid a deposit for her. They would use her on their Clyde service which will need an additional ship if Caledonian MacBrayne's Gourock-Dunoon service is closed as the Government intends.

EAST ANGLIA

Southern Coastcrafts, Great Yarmouth The NORWICH BELLE has not been in service this year and has reportedly been sold for static use on the Thames. Built in 1924 and steam-engined until 1961, the NORWICH BELLE was one of the oldest vessels offering sea trips in the British Isles.

THAMES

Woods River Services The wooden-hulled MINDEN ROSE has been advertised for sale by brokers for £16 000.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The British Railways Act which allows BR to develop the Fishbourne terminal received the royal assent on 27 July. Two *new* car ferries for the Portsmouth-Fishbourne route have been ordered from British Shipbuilders and are expected to be built at the Robb Caledon yard at Leith. Each will carry 1000 passengers and 142 cars at a speed of 12 knots. Delivery is due in February and May 1983 at a total cost of £10 million. The CAEDMON will then be transferred to the Lymington service and the FISHBOURNE and FRESHWATER will be sold.

M G Pearce, Portsmouth, plans to run a ferry service next year to the new submarine museum at Gosport.

Boscombe Sea Cruises The ISLAND QUEEN's hull has been painted dark red instead of white this year.

Croson The POOLE BELLE visited Southampton and Gosport on 29 August on a charter for the start of the Whitbread Round the World yacht race. The next day she was chartered in connection with the Cowes-Torquay powerboat race.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co is planning to build a new passenger/cargo ship to replace the ILE DE SERK, a converted torpedo recovery vessel which has served the island since 1950.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Western Lady Ferry Service The WESTERN LADY has been laid-up at the firm's yard at Galmpton on the River Dart this year and there have been no sailings from Paignton Pier. The owners have stated that they intend running the remaining craft for as long as possible but the vessels are near the end of their economic lives. The firm has inspected Croson's POOLE BELLE with a view to having a new vessel of similar design.

M R Walker, Brixham The CALYPSO has been advertised for sale for £7500.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co has chartered a 42-ft aluminium landing craft from Fairey Allday Marine for trials on the off-island services. The present wooden vessels, the GUGH and TEAN, are conversions of wartime naval launches and are in need of replacement.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell Ltd Two of the firm's Lundy launches, which had been retained to serve the PRINCE IVANHOE, have been offered for sale.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN was laid-up for the winter in Morpeth Dock, Birkenhead, on 5 September. The company has stated that she will be in service again next season. The MANX MAID was laid-up on 14 September and the BEN-MY-CHREE was docked on the 21st, leaving the two motorships in service.

MISCELLANY

The last steamships in the British Rail fleet have made their final passenger sailings. The EARL SIWARD has been laid-up at Newhaven since making her last sailing on the Channel Island service on 13 July. The CALEDONIAN PRINCESS completed her Dover season on 26 September and the MAID OF KENT made her last sailing between Weymouth and Cherbourg on 2 October. All three ships are to be sold.

The paddle steamer TATTERSHALL CASTLE was moved from her Embankment mooring in London during September. Reports of her present whereabouts would be welcome.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 5 October 1981

# TRIP OUT

**November 1981**

As usual in November, 'Trip Out' presents its lists of the "top ten" UK excursion fleets. The aim is to include all vessels used mainly for pleasure sailings, though the selection is naturally somewhat arbitrary for a firm like Caledonian MacBrayne which uses car ferries for pleasure trips. The figures refer to last summer and thus the PRINCE IVANHOE has been included. Tonnage figures for the ELIZABETHAN and NATICIA were not available so the figures for Catamaran Cruisers and Greenwich Pleasure Craft are lower than they should be. Nevertheless, the London fleets continue to make a good showing in the lists. Numbers in brackets are last year's positions.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(6) | Waverley Excursions | 1679 |
| 2(2) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 3(4) | George Wheeler | 844 |
| 4(3) | BR (Windermere) | 825 |
| 5(5) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 713 |
| 6(8) | Woods River Services | 620 |
| 7(1) | Caledonian MacBrayne | 555 |
| 8(9) | Salter Bros | 493 |
| 9(10) | Catamaran Cruisers | 464 |
| 10(-) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 455 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(9) | Waverley Excursions | 2566 |
| 2(1) | BR (Windermere) | 2564 |
| 3(3) | Salter Bros | 2258 |
| 4(2) | George Wheeler | 2130 |
| 5(5) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 1947 |
| 6(6) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1472 |
| 7(8) | Millbrook Steamboat | 1306 |
| 8(7) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 1256 |
| 9(-) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1148 |
| 10(10) | Broads Tours | 1140 |

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THAMES

Sailings from Westminster to Kew and Hampton Court, and the ZODIAC's cruises to Woolwich finished during October. The summer schedule of Tower and Greenwich services ended on 1 November. Winter services follow the usual pattern with departures from Westminster every 30 minutes from 1030 daily to Greenwich via Tower Pier.

An experimental hovercraft service in the Medway towns between Kingsnorth and Cuxton was due to start on 31 October using a 12-passenger craft.

British Rail Fares on the Tilbury-Gravesend ferry were increased on 1 November; a single ticket now costs 80p instead of 60p. BR claims that revenue from the service covers only one third of running costs.

Tidal Cruisers The HURLINGHAM's stern collided with a dredger off Tower Pier at about 0230 on 18 October. Some passengers suffered minor injuries and the vessel was slightly damaged.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL WILLIAM grounded at St Helier on 5 October and was subsequently inspected in dry dock at Le Havre. About ten passengers were injured aboard the EARL GRANVILLE on 9 October when she encountered heavy seas off the Isle of Wight en route to Portsmouth.

Condor This year's services end on 8 November; services will not resume until mid-March 1982.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co In the year ended on 31 March, the company's turnover was £1 087 744 (10% more than the previous year's). There was a loss after tax etc of £28 074, compared with a profit of £20 708 last year. Reduced cargo traffic and a poor summer season are blamed; day excursion business in 1980 is said to have been the worst for several years. This autumn's schedule has five sailings every fortnight following complaints over last year's reduced twice-weekly service. The SCILLONIAN III is due to be off service for refit from 17 to 30 November.

R D & J H Paynter, St Ives The 41-ft CORNISH QUEEN, built in 1964 to carry 64 passengers but used only for fishing in recent years, has been offered for sale.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Grebe Canal Cruises, Tring, have advertised their original narrow boat, the GREBE, for sale for £9500.

MISCELLANY

The ps TATTERSHALL CASTLE was towed from London to Rochester cn 9 September and is being converted to a pub and restaurant for the Grand Metropolitan group. The work is expected to take 21 months after which she will return to her berth in London.

The converted minesweeper BOSCOMBE QUEEN, used as an excursion vessel in 1977, has since been converted at Poole to a yacht by her new owner, Major A E Pickwoad. She is now being offered for sale for £110 000.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 November 1981

# TRIP OUT

**December 1981**

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NORTH EAST

Green's Canal & River Craft, Sheffield, have this year been running the MAY QUEEN, previously on the R Dee at Chester with Bithells Boats. She has replaced the PRINCESS KATHARINE.

EAST ANGLIA

Essex Marina, Wallasea Island The LADY ESSEX, used on the ferry to Burnham-on-Crouch, has been advertised for sale for £7000.

THAMES

Greenwich Pleasure Craft are running three vessels on winter services from Charing Cross to Tower and Greenwich. In addition, this month the ELIZABETHAN is offering a daily Christmas lunch cruise at an inclusive fare of £9.75 (+VAT).

London. Launches The ZODIAC is running cruises to the flood barrier at Woolwich on some afternoons this winter, leaving Westminster at 1330.

Harbourside Investments (S A Metcalf), Westminster, last season took over the operation of the CONNAUGHT and KINGWOOD from George Wheeler Launches; both spent the summer on the upriver service. One vessel is being used on the winter service from Westminster to Greenwich - in early November the CONNAUGHT was in service but she has now been replaced by the KINGWOOD.

SOUTH COAST

Croson The DORSET BELLE closed the season on 30 October. The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE had finished on 25 September and the POOLE BELLE on 7 October. The POOLE BELLE is being re-engined this winter as it is the firm's policy to fit new engines every five years. On 26 June 1982, she will act as the 'Admiral's Barge' for the ceremony of beating the bounds of Poole Harbour.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL WILLIAM stayed in dry dock at Le Havre till 5 November but remained at the French port for engine repairs which are expected to continue till mid-December. The MAID OF KENT made a few sailings from Weymouth to Guernsey in October in place of the EARL WILLIAM.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways have acquired the DEVONIA for service to the Channel Islands. From mid-May, she is due to sail three times weekly from Torquay to Alderney and Guernsey with passengers, cargo and cars. Evening 'showboat' cruises will also be offered from Torquay. Torbay Seaways, owned by Mr J G Thompson, has run local cruises from Torquay since 1976, using the TORBAY CLIPPER (previously EXONIA) until 1979, then since 1980 the larger NEW ROSELAND. Earlier this year, the coaster ONTIC was obtained for a Torquay-Alderney cargo service, and the business has been registered as Torbay Seaways and Stevedores Ltd.

Devon Dock, Pier & Steamship Co has decided that the Exmouth-Starcross summer ferry service is no longer economic and the two vessels may be sold. Higher pier dues following the sale of Starcross Pier by British Rail to private individuals are given as the main reason for the decision.
P J Moule, Kingsbridge The RIVER MAID has been offered for sale.
St Mawes Ferry Co In addition to the PRINCESS MARINA, on the market since January, the NANKERSEY has been advertised for sale for £24 000.

BRISTOL CHANNEL
P & A Campbell The DEVONIA is expected to leave Avonmouth this month following her sale to Torbay Seaways. A sale of the BALMORAL is also said to be imminent.

WEST WALES
C I Crockford, Tenby The ENTERPRISE has been advertised for sale for £25 000.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS
Severn & Canal Carrying Co After running on the Severn for one season, the narrow boat SABRINA is on the market for £10 500 +VAT.
Coles Morton Marine, Sileby, have built the 60-ft THOMAS SKIPWITH for charter cruises on the River Soar from Sileby near Leicester. The boat can carry 60 passengers and is claimed to have cost £35 000.

IRISH SEA
Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE was dry-docked in the first half of November and has since resumed her lay-up at Birkenhead.

MISCELLANY
The QUEEN MARY is still being converted in the King George V Dock in London for her new role as a floating restaurant and pub. There was a small fire aboard on 26 November. Berthed near her is the NORWICH BELLE which is now under the same ownership.

Cruise ships are offering five round-Britain cruises in 1982. Three are by Russian ships promoted by CTC Lines and two are by the ORPHEUS (originally the MUNSTER), chartered by Swan's Hellenic Cruises. The latter calls at a number of unusual places including Pembroke, Lundy and Tresco.

 © G P Hamer 6 December 1981

# TRIP OUT

**January 1982**

1982 is being promoted as 'Maritime England' year by the English Tourist Board whose lavishly-illustrated booklet is now on sale in bookshops for £1.25. It describes places and events with maritime connections throughout England, though the connections are sometimes tenuous; Shrewsbury is featured because Charles Darwin and Admiral Benbow were born there. Countless nautical museums are included but the idea that people can actually travel by boat is largely ignored and passenger boats are barely mentioned. The booklet's best illustration of an excursion vessel is of the now-defunct BALMORAL. It is a sad reflection of the Tourist Board's attitude, but if the campaign does succeed in arousing more interest is ships and boats, then passenger boat operators should get some indirect benefit.

Geoffrey Hamer

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NORTH EAST

Mid Tyne Ferries The new vessel built in 1981 is named TYNE COUNTESS and not TYNE LADY as originally reported by the owners.

EAST ANGLIA

The LEE PRINCESS, a converted ship's lifeboat which has operated from Potter Heigham for the past two seasons, has been advertised for sale for £3000.

THAMES

Tidal Cruisers Last August the CLAIREST began running on the Regent's Canal on charter to Stephen Warwick. She ran at weekends and Bank Holidays on a regular timetable between Limehouse and Camden.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust The paddleboat CHARLOTTE DUNDAS, which was earlier reported sold by the Trust, is still at Pewsey and is being offered for sale by tender with a closing date of 15 January.

SOUTH COAST

Southern Coastcrafts The new Hythe ferry to replace the HOTSPUR III is due to be completed this winter by Arun Yachts of Littlehampton. The 69-ft steel-hulled vessel will have fully enclosed accommodation for 150 passengers.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

A total of 48 627 passengers was carried on the two services from Granville to Jersey last year, a reduction of 14% compared with 1980. There was, however, a 7% increase in the number of passengers travelling from Granville to the Chausey Islands.

Condor The gas turbine Westamaran CONDOR 6, chartered for the 1980 season, was renamed GIMLE BELLE when returned to her Norwegian owners; her present activities are not known.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J Fildew, Plymouth Last season Mr Fildew ran the 44-passenger CORAL STAR, previously operated at Plymouth by Mrs N E I Glinn. The CORAL STAR ran Dockyard cruises from the Mayflower Steps but has now been offered for sale for £6000.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

P & A Campbell The BALMORAL has been sold, apparently for use as a pub/restaurant at Dundee. The DEVONIA has already been delivered to Torbay Seaways. Campbells' Bristol office closed at the end of December and the company has now ceased trading.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE Western Ferries' HIGHLAND SEABIRD is due to carry out trials on the Mersey in February to test the suitability of a catamaran for the Mersey ferry services.

MISCELLANY

The Monopolies & Mergers Commission published its report into the possibility of European Ferries buying the shipping interests of British Rail on 8 December. Such a takeover is found to be against the public interest because the combined fleet would control too big a share of the market. The Isle of Wight services are stated to be amongst British Rail's more profitable services, but the Channel Island services lost money in 1980.

The ps TATTERSHALL CASTLE returned from the Medway to London in the first half of December. Her sistership, the WINGFIELD CASTLE, has been advertised for sale recently for £45 000; she has been berthed in London-below Tower Bridge for two years but her present ownership is obscure.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 January 1982

# TRIP OUT

**February 1982**

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY is due to go to Belfast for dry docking early in March and opens her season on the Clyde on 10 April. From 24 to 27 April, she sails from Oban and Fort William then from 1 to 12 Nay is on the Firths of Forth and Tay. She is on the Humber from 15 to 19 May then has four days based on the Tyne. She will not visit the Thames this year because of increased pilotage and other costs and doubts over the availability of Southend Pier. She makes an evening cruise from Plymouth to the Eddystone on 26 May, then operates on the Bristol Channel from 29 May to 27 June. In September, she is due to visit the south coast.

THAMES

Salter Bros The 1982 season of public sailings lasts from 16 May to 12 September and sailings are identical to last year's; the Henley-Marlow service and additional Windsor-Marlow sailing operate from 18 July to 30 August.

French Brothers, Runnymede, will again be running a service to Hampton Court on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 17 May to 16 September. Shorter 2-hour and 35-minute cruises from Runnymede are offered from Easter to October.

A E Collier, Richmond The BAY QUEEN, which has been for sale for most of her time with this owner, has recently been offered for £13 500. Mr Collier also owns the THAMES QUEEN which was used last season for Hampton Court trips.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The Portsmouth-Ryde service runs to revised timings between 15 February and 27 March while the BRADING and SOUTHSEA are overhauled and replaced in turn by a car ferry. The Portsmouth car ferry terminal is to be transferred from Broad Street to Gunwharf Road during February or March.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail Sailings were suspended, along with all other BR cross-channel routes, from 7 January for a week as the ships' officers protested against service cuts and redundancies at Harwich and Newhaven. The EARL GODWIN was at Barry for refit from 18 to 26 January.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The Sark +parliament has approved expenditure, of £870 000 on a new replacement for the ILE DE SERK.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways have applied to change the DEVONIA's name to DEVONIUN (sic). She is advertised to run from 15 May to 2 October, leaving Torquay at 0700 on Tuesdays via Alderney and at 0755 on Thursdays and Saturdays direct to Guernsey, returning on all three days from Guernsey at 1700 direct to Torquay. The crossing time to either island is 5 hours and the single or day return fare is £17.50. Evening cruises from Torquay are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays - "spend an exotic evening on this lovely cruise liner" says the brochure.

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co Excursions from Plymouth to Looe are to be offered this summer for the first time in at least ten years. The trip will take five hours including time ashore. Plymouth Angling Boatman's Association will be offering regular 4-hour sightseeing cruises to the Eddystone Lighthouse next summer in boats limited to 12 passengers.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Seymour-Roseblade, Leicester, run trips on the River Soar with the 55-passenger PRINCESS MARIE. She was acquired from Sherwood Line of Nottingham but appears under "others" in 'Trip Out 1981/82'.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The WOODCHURCH has been advertised for sale after being laid-up at Birkenhead for about a year.

British Rail The SWIFT will not be in service this year and the Windermere service will be maintained by three ships. During the peak season, the number of daily departures from Lakeside is reduced from eight to six, while the number of round trips between Bowness and Ambleside is reduced from fifteen to nine. There is a one-ship service at Easter from 10 to 13 April and the summer season lasts from 2 May to 3 October.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN went to Manchester on 26 January for refit and was replaced by the BEN-MY-CHREE. The company's accounts for 1981 show a pre-tax loss of £620 552 compared with a profit of £678 392 in 1980.

MISCELLANY

The BALMORAL has been advertised for sale again by brokers and plans to berth her at Dundee have presumably been abandoned. She is not being advertised as suitable for further passenger service.

The QUEEN OF SCOTS (ex CORONIA and BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN) left Rothesay on 10 January for London in tow of the Poole-based tug PULWELL DELTA. She is now berthed in the King George V Dock alongside the QUEEN MARY. Her owners have applied to berth her at Rochester as a pub and restaurant.

The TATTERSHALL CASTLE was towed back into London to her berth alongside the Embankment on 22 January; there have been no external changes to her.

 © G P Hamer 7 February 1982

# TRIP OUT

**March 1982**

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THAMES

Meridian Line Cruises The SWANAGE QUEEN is making a public day trip from Greenwich to Southend on Easter Monday, 12 April. The fare is £5 and advance booking is recommended.

Turk Launches, Kingston The EMPRESS OF INDIA has been offered for sale for £60 000.

JGF Passenger Boats, Walton-on-Thames The VIKING M has been placed on the market for £5800.

SOUTH COAST

The Swanage Pier Co has announced that the pier is to be closed after damage valued at £20 000 had been caused by winter gales. Various organisations are campaigning for the local authorities to take over the pier.

British Rail The Fishbourne car ferries began using the new Portsmouth terminal at Gunwharf Road on 21 February; the first crossing left the new terminal at 0600. During the overhauls of the SOUTHSEA and BRADING, the FRESHWATER is being used on the passenger service to Ryde.

Croson The closure of Swanage Pier means that the long-established summer service from Bournemouth has ended and the company is planning to use its spare vessel on a new service.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Only two craft, the CONDOR 4 and 5, are scheduled to operate this year; three craft have been used for the past eight seasons.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Devon Dock, Pier & Steamship Co has sold the Exmouth-Starcross ferry service to Mr M D Barrow. The company's main business is the running of Exmouth Dock but it has operated excursion vessels since its formation in 1892.

M D Barrow, Exmouth, has taken over the summer Exmouth-Starcross ferry service. The new owner claims that the service is likely to lose £5000 this summer and has asked the local authorities for a subsidy, though his requests have so far been turned down.

Torbay Seaways The NEW ROSELAND has been advertised for "quick sale" at £18 500. She has been at Torquay for two seasons, having previously served Bridlington, Falmouth and London.

Castle Bay Boat Co, Penzance The owner is retiring and has offered the business, including the 32-ft MISHANNA I, for sale for £17 500.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

B & M Charters The SARAH SIDDONS has been sold for service on the Trent & Mersey Canal.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Potteries Canal Cruising Co has acquired the unpowered 46-passenger SARAH SIDDONS from the Brecon & Abergavenny Canal. Formerly propelled by a paddle steamer, she will be towed by her new owners' other passenger vessel, the FLAMINGO, or a smaller tug.

Steam Cruising Co, Norbury The horse-drawn trip business has been offered for sale, though a brochure advertising this summer's trips has been distributed. In addition to charter trips, public trips will be offered on certain dates from May to September.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The HIGHLAND SEABIRD began trials on the Mersey on 15 February after encountering bad weather en route from Scotland and having to shelter at Douglas. After three days' trials, she returned to the Clyde on 19 February, and the Merseyside PTE subsequently decided to charter the craft for three months.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The company's accounts for 1981 show that turnover was £11 456 802, a fall of 3% compared with 1980. There was a loss after tax of £620 552 compared with a profit of £678 392 (this corrects the last issue). The number of staying visitors carried during the season fell by 21½% while day excursion traffic was down by 39%. The number of day trippers from Llandudno was almost halved and the number from Fleetwood was down by a third. Day return fares for this summer have been kept at last year's level of £9.80. The Llandudno service runs from 1 June to 1 September and there are 20 trips compared with 27 in 1981. The MANXMAN will visit all the company's ports, but has only five sailings from Fleetwood and only one scheduled sailing from Ardrossan.

MISCELLANY

The QUEEN OF SCOTS is being renamed ROCHESTER QUEEN for her static role on the Medway. Her Chinese owners, Tesright Ltd, also own the QUEEN MARY and NORWICH BELLE.

In connection with the WAVERLEY's weekend visit to Oban and Fort William on 24-25 April, a four-day coach tour from the south coast and London has been organised by Waverley Travel Ltd.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 March 1982

# TRIP OUT

**April 1982**

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Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY's timetable for her whole 1982 season has been published and follows the pattern previously reported. The first public sailing in England is on 16 May from Hull to Goole.

NORTH EAST

Following the closure of the Humber ferry service last year, the pontoon at Hull has been removed, but New Holland Pier is still being offered for sale by British Rail. The FARRINGFORD has remained in the Alexandra Dock at Hull since her sale to Western Ferries last autumn and it now looks unlikely that her new owners will have any need for her on the Firth of Clyde.

J F Bogg, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE, owned for the past nine years by Mr Bogg and three partners, has been sold to Messrs P Richardson and R Simpson. She will continue as one of the two Bridlington excursion vessels and starts her 1982 season at Easter.

THAMES

Woods River Services took delivery in the past week of a new vessel named SIR THOMAS MORE; she is berthed at Wapping Pier with the SILVER BARRACUDA.

SOUTH COAST

Croson The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE and POOLE BELLE will be chartered for trips from Hythe by Southern Coastcrafts for the finish of the 'Tall Ships Race' from 21 to 25 August. The future of Swanage Pier is still unsettled and if it is reprieved, Croson will run a service from Bournemouth to Swanage.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The TERESA OF SARK has been advertised for sale for £28 000.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co There are some reductions in the SCILLONIAN III's summer schedule this year. Between 22 April and 21 May, there are only four day excursions weekly as the ship spends Thursday nights at St Mary's. Otherwise there are daily (except Sundays) sailings from 2 April to 11 October. There are two round trips on Saturdays 29 May, 5 June and from 3 July to 28 August - a shorter period than in previous years.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Dundas Carrying Co, Bath The owner, Lt-Cdr C Wray-Bliss, died last autumn after a short illness. He took a leading part in the campaign to restore the Kennet & Avon Canal in the 1950s and began running the paddleboat CHARLOTTE DUNDAS in 1962. In 1968 she was replaced by the JANE AUSTEN which the owner built himself. Before his death he had nearly completed an even larger paddle vessel for the canal.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Severn & Canal Carrying Co For the trips on the River Severn, the SABRINA is being replaced by a 60-passenger vessel to be named LADY SABRINA. She will operate from both Haw Bridge and Gloucester. There are public trips from Haw Bridge on Thursday and Sunday afternoons and from Gloucester on Saturdays a day trip to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge is being offered. On the Coombe Hill Canal, trips are to be offered in a 45-ft double-ended vessel named SARA MUMFORD. The horse-drawn narrow boat SUNNY VALLEY will not be used until restoration of the canal is completed, probably in 1983.

Wolverhampton Passenger boat Services The WATER TRIPPER is being renamed STAFFORD. She was acquired by her present owners last year, having operated in the Wolverhampton area under two previous owners.

Clayton Line, Stenson The STENSON BUBBLE has been sold after four years'service with this operator and is being replaced by a new wide-beam vessel.

NORTH WEST

Boatel Party Cruises, Wigan The CLAYMORE was sold last November to a Mr Armstrong and is now based at Lathome Marine at Burscough for year-round party trips.

Bowness Bay Boating Co has acquired the M S C SILVER ARROW II from the Manchester Ship Canal Co and is renaming her SILVER HOLME. She was built by Philip & Son at Dartmouth with the lines of a Dutch waterbus for cruises in Manchester Docks, but these trips ceased last year.

National Trust After incurring "heavy losses" over the past two seasons, management of the steam launch GONDOLA is to be handed over to British Rail (Sealink UK) this year. Any future losses will be borne by BR, but profits will be shared equally by BR and the NT. The arrangement is for this season only, but a 5-year agreement is to be worked out. The vessel will still be owned by the NT.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN left Manchester after refit on 4 March and replaced the LADY OF MANN which arrived on the Clyde for overhaul on 6 March. The company is to acquire the cargo ferry N F JAGUAR from P & 0 for £1 200 000 when her charter ends in December and the ship will be given a more suitable name.

MISCELLANY

The National Trust's 1981 visiting figures for islands in its care were: St Michael's Mount 168 000 (170 000 in 1980); Brownsea 108 000 (116 000); Farne 41 000 (40 000); Lundy, under 20 000.

The BALMORAL left Avonmouth in late March and is apparently going to Dundee, after all, to become a floating pub.

Trinity House has taken possession of the wreck of the PRINCE IVANHOE, which had been breaking-up at Port Eynon, and is expected to carry out disposal operations.

 © G P Hamer 4 April 1982

# TRIP OUT

**May 1982**

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NORTH EAST

J S & K Allan, Kielder Water  For trips on this man-made lake in the North Tyne Valley, the OCEAN DAWN has been purchased from Donaldson & Pringle of Seahouses. The vessel, a glass fibre launch built for trips from Ramsgate and subsequently used for trips to the Farne Islands, was taken by road to the lake and has been fitted with a fixed canopy. She is being joined by a second boat.

THAMES

Summer services in London resumed before Easter and most fares have remained unchanged from last summer. Sailings from Westminster to Hampton Court have been offered daily since Easter, giving a better service than in recent years.

Meridian Line Cruises  The SWANAGE QUEEN took 120 passengers to Southend on Easter Monday and she was due to make another trip on 3 May. Further public day trips to Southend are scheduled for Sundays 6 June, 4 July, 15 August and 12 September, and Wednesday 4 August.

M I Evans, Maidstone  The cruises on the River Medway are now operated by the KENTISH LADY, previously the BRAY LADY II at Maidenhead. She is believed to have replaced the smaller SWAN two years ago.

SOUTH COAST

Boscombe Sea Cruises  For the first time for some years, the ISLAND QUEEN operated at Easter, offering Dorset Lakes cruises.

Croson  The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE and DORSET BELLE were refitted in March, followed by the POOLE BELLE at the end of April. The season was opened by the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE on 6 April with morning and afternoon Dorset Lakes cruises. With good weather, she continued in service after Easter and offered an extra cruise 'round the Bay' on some days. There are plans to set up a trust to administer Swanage Pier, but Dorset County Council has refused to give any money and it may be too late to enable a boat service to operate this year.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail  On 10 April the EARL WILLIAM was chartered by a Weymouth club for an excursion to Cherbourg with 850 passengers. On the following day, the EARL GRANVILLE called at Cherbourg on a trip from Portsmouth.

WEST OF ENGLAND

T Nidd, Plymouth  The QUEEN OF THE SEA has been on the market since the end of last year for £20 000.

K J Bridge, Plymouth  The DUKE OF EDINBURGH has been offered for sale for £15 500.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Swan Line Cruisers, Fradley, have bought the STENSON BUBBLE from Clayton Line and have renamed her FRADLEY SWAN. Public cruises along the Coventry Canal are being offered on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Canal Leisure Cruises, Shardlow The narrow boat AQUARIUS has been sold for service at Coventry and is being replaced by a 65-ft 60-passenger vessel.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The OVERCHURCH is being chartered by the Friends of the Ferries on 12 June for an afternoon excursion from Seacombe, Liverpool and Woodside to the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum. Fare £3.50.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The LADY OF MANN left the Clyde on 6 April at the end of her refit. After Easter, the BEN-MY-CHREE went for overhaul at Manchester, arriving on 14 April and leaving on the 27th.

MISCELLANY

British Rail's shipping services incurred a loss of £5.8 million in. 1981, compared with a profit of £2.6 million in 1980. BR's harbours made a profit and the overall loss of Sealink UK was £700 000.

The KING GEORGE V, gutted by fire at Cardiff last August, was sold to breakers who resold her in December to Tesright Ltd, owners of the QUEEN MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS and NORWICH BELLE. They hope to tow her to the Medway for conversion to a restaurant.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 5 May 1982

# TRIP OUT

**June 1982**

This year is remarkable for the number of coastal excursion services which are being revived in the south of England. This summer it will be possible to cruise from Weymouth to Lulworth Cove, from Torquay to the Channel Islands and from Plymouth to Looe. None of these trips has been available in recent years. These ventures deserve to succeed and the best way to help them is to ensure they are well patronised.

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Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY completed her east coast sailings without incident and with reasonable passenger support. After an evening cruise from Plymouth on 26 May with a full load, she arrived on the Bristol Channel on the 27th. She makes her first ever calls at Sharpness on 11 June and at Bideford on the 13th. There are five landings each at Steep Holm and Lundy. The final Bristol Channel trips are on 27 June after which she returns to Scotland.

NORTH EAST

Pennine Boat Trips of Skipton The business changed hands last year from Mr J B Tillotson to Mr A Cawthra. The COBBYDALE continues to offer mainly charter trips, but public trips are scheduled and "wine cruises" were introduced in May giving a 3½-hr cruise with unlimited wine to drink for £5.

THAMES

Meridian Line Cruises The SWANAGE QUEEN has charter trips to Southend on 30 May and 6 June, so the next public trip has been postponed to Sunday 20 June. Advance booking is recommended; fare £5.

Thames Trips This agency is advertising day trips to Southend from Greenwich every Sunday at a fare of £6.95. It seems that tickets are actually available for certain Sundays only, and that on these dates the SWANAGE QUEEN is being chartered.

Woods River Services The SIR THOMAS MORE commenced a programme of non-landing cruises from Tower Pier in May under the name 'Thames Guided Tours'. Cruises are at 1000 to Greenwich and at 1300 and 1900 to Chelsea, including morning coffee, lunch or dinner.

Turk Launches, Kingston, have taken delivery of the NEW SOUTHERN BELLE, an imitation Mississippi vessel with two enclosed decks, mock stern wheels and twin funnels. She is being used for charter work.

French Brothers, Runnymede, have bought the HURLEY and NUNEHAM and plan to restore them to passenger service, though neither will be ready this season. The HURLEY, at one time with Salters, last operated at Evesham some years ago. The NUNEHAM was owned by Salters until 1971, then ran at Westminster, but was laid-up last season.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Devizes, has bought the GIGI from Pullman Marine of Stratford-on-Avon for £23 000 and has renamed her CHARLOTTE DUNDAS II. She was taken by road from Gloucester to Devizes and is now in service, offering trips as far as Crofton Top Lock.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Services A fourth RHS70 hydrofoil was due to be delivered from Messina in May and is likely to replace an HM2 hovercraft which has been used since early 1981 mainly on charter crossings for Vosper Thornycroft workers.

Croson The POOLE BELLE was due to open the Isle of Wight service on 31 May while the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE continues on Dorset Lakes and round-the-Bay cruises. The DORSET BELLE has been refitted and is lying at Poole Quay, but there has been no indication of her employment this season.

J H Megoran, Weymouth, has chartered the SOLENT QUEEN from Blue Funnel Cruises for sailings from Weymouth between mid-June and September. There will be 1-hour cruises to Portland Harbour and 2-hr cruises to Lulworth Cove, which were last available in 1974.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways Before the start of the service, the Tuesday schedule was amended to serve Alderney only and is being offered at a reduced excursion fare. The DEVONIUN made her first trip on 15 May with about 250 passengers. She has been repainted in her original colours of white hull and yellow funnel, and has a Class II(A) certificate for 300 passengers. The crossing was made at 13 knots and took over 6 hours. The schedule was subsequently amended to allow 6 hours for the crossing, with day trippers having three hours ashore.

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co Excursions to Looe are to begin in July and will be offered on certain Saturdays and Sundays. Exact dates are not yet available.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

John Rennie Boat Co, Bath, is introducing a new 63-ft 70-passenger wide-beam boat named JOHN RENNIE on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Public afternoon cruises are offered from Widcombe Top Lock daily except Sundays. The owner is Mr T J Wheeldon.

WEST WALES

Caldey Boat Service Two additional vessels, the 42-passenger JAMES NOEL and 38-passenger NICOLA CHARLOTTE, have joined the service and the SCOTIA has been withdrawn. The JAMES NOEL was a 35½-ft lifeboat built in 1952 and named R N L B KATHERINE AND VIRGOE BUCKLAND; she later became the LORD HURCOMB with the Field Studies Council.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The HIGHLAND SEABIRD left the Clyde for the Mersey on 7 May and began her three-month charter on 13 May.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN entered dry dock at Liverpool on 5 May and was ready for service on the 26th. The MANX MAID was due to enter service on the 28th. The MANXMAN is making a special long day trip from Liverpool to Douglas on 19 June, leaving at 0930 and leaving Douglas at 1830.

# TRIP OUT

**July 1982**

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THAMES

Meridian Line Cruises  Public trips to Southend are currently being advertised for 4 August and 12 September.

Thames Cruises, Radcot  The business has been bought by Mr C Groves from the previous owner, Mr N Elwes. The BATTERSEA now offers public trips on Sundays and Bank Holiday afternoons from May to September, and a day trip on Thursdays in August to Lechlade.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust  The Hungerford branch has ordered a 55-ft 48-passenger boat from Peter Nicholls of Napton for delivery this month.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Services  The company's 1981 annual report states that there was a small reduction in traffic on the car ferries, but an increase on the hydrofoils. There was a sharp drop in the company's profits, attributed to the tug fleet which was affected by dock disputes at Southampton. The new hydrofoil is named SHEARWATER 6. The company is advertising hourly cruises to view the "tall ships" on 21-25 August from Mayflower Park, Southampton, presumably using a chartered vessel.

Blue Funnel Cruises will also be offering cruises from Mayflower Park to view the "tall ships".

Croson  The DORSET BELLE was rushed into service during hot weather on 30 May to offer half-hour round-the-Bay trips from Bournemouth. These have continued on Sundays and Bank Holidays, while from 21 June she introduced cruises to Swanage Bay and Durlston Head (1 hr 45 mins) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and four sailings each way between Bournemouth and Poole on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; through tickets are offered from Bournemouth to Brownsea Island by changing boats at Poole. The company has ruled out any possibility of calls at Swanage this year.

J H Megoran, Weymouth  The SOLENT QUEEN is sailing from the Pavilion Pier on cruises to Lulworth Cove (2 hours) at 1045 on Tue and Thu, and at 1500 on Sun, Mon, Wed and Fri, and to Portland Bill at 1100 on Mon, Wed and Fri (1½ hours) and at 1500 on Tue and Thu (2 hrs). There is also a short cruise at 1400 daily (except Sats) and a 1½-hour evening cruise at 2000.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor  Services to Alderney are not operating because of engineering work at the harbour there. The only passenger vessel calling at the island is thus the DEVONIUN from Torquay.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways  The only incident reported in the DEVONIUN's service has been the instant dismissal of two crew for an unknown reason. In the Torbay area, the firm has been advertising inclusive holidays in Alderney.

F R Ould, Torquay  The OUR ROSALIE has been offered for sale for £10 000.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY had a very successful spell on the Bristol Channel with good loads after a poor start attributable to a lack of advance publicity. Campbells' Lundy launch WESTWARD HO has been bought and was used to tender to the WAVERLEY at Lundy and at Weston-super-Mare which was visited on an additional unscheduled trip from Penarth.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Star Narrow Boat Co, Loughborough, bought the WATER RAMBLER from the British Waterways Board last year and restored her original name of STAR which she carried as a cargo carrier until 1957. Public trips are being offered on Sunday afternoons in July and August from Mountsorrel. The owners are Mr & Mrs Crew.

Sherwood Line, Nottingham, has bought the narrow boat SABRINA from the Severn & Canal Carrying Co and has renamed her MAID OF SHERWOOD. She is being used for cruises from the Nottingham Canal Museum.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The HIGHLAND SEABIRD's trials have apparently been suspended until October. Proposals to operate her this summer from Liverpool to Llandudno and Menai Bridge, and in the autumn on trips to view the Blackpool illuminations have been published, though it is not clear who would actually operate the service.

Co-op Travel is offering Manchester Ship Canal cruises on 18-19 September, sailing from Liverpool on the Saturday and from Manchester on the Sunday. The single fare is £8.45.

Foulridge Leisure Cruises introduced trips on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal last year with the new 55-ft 50-passenger MARTON EMPEROR. Public trips are offered most weekends from Barrowford or Burnley.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Nan Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN's future is to be decided in the next few weeks; traffic so far this season has been described as "disappointing".

MISCELLANY

The WINGFIELD CASTLE was towed to Rochester for refit in early May and has presumably been bought for static use. Her sistership, the TATTERSHALL CASTLE, is due to open shortly as a pub and restaurant in London.

 © G P Hamer 7 July 1982

# TRIP OUT

**August 1982**

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EAST ANGLIA

Pleasure Steamers, Great Yarmouth  The ELIZABETH SIMPSON's engines were allowed to become corroded last winter and had to be replaced before she could return to service.  The start of her season was delayed until late-July.

Scenic Water Tours, Potter Heigham, is the name under which the LEE PRINCESS operated Broads cruises.  She has been replaced by a waterbus named LEA MAID, which is believed to have been the AQUARIUS of Mr K M Baldwin of Yarmouth.

THAMES

D Rose, Rochester  The QUEEN OF KENT is not running this season but the owner hopes to resume trips between the Medway and Southend next summer.

Interocean Shipping Agency operated the HIGHLAND SEABIRD on trials on the Thames and Medway between at least 13 and 20 July.  She visited Tower Pier, Greenwich, Gravesend, Tilbury, Southend, Sheerness and Strood, and offered public trips between London and Gravesend at the weekend.  The firm hopes to introduce a regular service later this year using smaller craft.

River Functions (Thames)  The CHERRY GARDEN left London in July 1981 and has been chartered to Empresa da Navegação do Douro for trips on the River Douro in Portugal under the name RIBA DOURO. The delivery voyage was made via Les Sables d'Olonne and she was skippered by Captain G Renshaw, formerly of P&O's EAGLE.

D & T Scenic's, Reading  The new CAVERSHAM PRINCESS was delivered by road from Hull on 28 May.  She Is 74 ft long, carries 185 passengers and is similar to the smaller CAVERSHAM LADY.  Public trips from Reading follow the pattern of previous years', and trips are also being offered from the Childe Beale Wildlife Trust at Basildon; these are the first public trips on this stretch of the river since 1974.

SOUTH COAST

Southern Coastcrafts, Hythe  The new vessel has been delivered to Hythe and is named THE NEW FORESTER.

Boscombe Sea Cruises  The ISLAND QUEEN is running Isle of Wight trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays only this year; local trips, which now include calls at Brownsea Island, are on other days (except Saturdays).

Croson  For the visit of the "tall ships" to Southampton, the POOLE BELLE will offer a day cruise from Bournemouth to Southampton on 24 August, with return by coach from Hythe. The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE will sail to Yarmouth on the 24th but passengers will return by bus from Lymington.  Both vessels will be on charter for the "grand parade of sail" on the 25th (though to individual organisations and not to Southern Coastcrafts as previously reported) while the DORSET BELLE has a charter from Poole to Southampton Water.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail Some sailings were cancelled by NUS strike action between 27 July and 3 August. If the strike had continued, the union would have allowed some sailings to serve the Islands. Torbay Seaways had planned to offer extra trips from Torquay, but these were not necessary.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Turf Hotel, Exminster, is operating the former Regent's Canal waterbus WATER MONGOOSE on the Exeter Ship Canal. Built of glass fibre in 1971, she was operated by the British Waterways Board until 1977 but her activities since then are unknown.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

A new waterbus named JACQUELINE D entered service on the River Wye at. Symond's Yat in June. Built at Bristol, she is 52 ft long, carries 72 passengers and is said to have cost £70 000 to build.

NORTH WEST

E Bramston, Chester Last spring, the EVELINA IV was bought and renamed LADY EDWINA GROSVENOR for service on the River Dee. She had previously operated at Falmouth but before 1976 was the KINGSLEY in the Isles of Scilly.

Castle Express is the name under which the HIGHLAND SEABIRD will be operated from Liverpool to Llandudno. She is being chartered from Western Ferries by a consortium which includes Interocean Shipping Agency of London, Westamarin A/S, the craft's builders, and Haanes Rederi of Kristiansand. Trips start on 5 August and continue till 17 October, after which she resumes trials with the Merseyside PTE. Apart from Liverpool to Llandudno trips (at a day return fare of from £7.50), she will make calls at Menai Bridge and there will be trips to view the Blackpool illuminations in the autumn.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co announced in mid-July that the MANXMAN would be withdrawn from service at the end of the season. She has been advertised for sale by shipbrokers for £85 000 with delivery in October. She is expected to make her last passenger sailing on Saturday 4 September.

MISCELLANY

The WINGFIELD CASTLE's new owners are Whitbread who hope to use her as a pub at Swansea. The ship is presently at Rochester and there are reported to be doubts over the poor condition of her hull.

 © G P Hamer 4 August 1982

# TRIP OUT

**September 1982**

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NORTH EAST

W Shiel, Seahouses  The GLAD TIDINGS IV went ashore on Longstone Island on 13 July. The 34 passengers were taken off and she was later refloated and towed back to Seahouses in a badly damaged condition.

J S & K Allan, Kielder Water  The EVA-MAY has been bought from Mr R C Greenslade of Poole and transported to the lake to run with the OCEAN DAWN.

Alan Oliver (Cruises), Doncaster  A new vessel is under construction and the two present vessels have been placed on the market: the ACHILLES for £15 000 and the WYRE LADY for £60 000.

EAST ANGLIA

A 33-passenger converted ship's lifeboat named JOHNOTHAN PAUL has been running on the River Waveney from Beccles this season. 2-hour cruises were offered at 1200, 1530 and 2000 daily.

THAMES

Harbourside Investments (S A Metcalf), Westminster  The upriver service roster this summer has followed a fixed pattern and has not varied from day to day as it has in recent years. The KINGWOOD has taken the 1030 sailing from Westminster to Hampton Court every day while the CONNAUGHT has made sailings only as far as Kew. Next winter the CONNAUGHT is to be re-engined and refitted and is due to take over the 1030 sailing to Hampton Court in 1983.

SOUTH COAST

Waverley Steam Navigation Co  The WAVERLEY began her South Coast sailings as scheduled on 1 September and continues till the 19th, with calls at Southsea, Ryde, Sandown, Southampton, Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth. Sailings each week follow a fixed pattern: on Saturdays, she goes round the Isle of Wight from Southampton, Ryde, Southsea and Sandown; on Sundays, she sails from Southampton, Bournemouth and Weymouth to Portland Harbour.

Red Funnel Services  The tug/tender CALSHOT was used for cruises from the Town Quay at Southampton from 22 to 24 August to view the "tall ships". She has a certificate for 215 passengers, but it is now very rarely used.

Croson  On 19 August bad weather prevented the POOLE BELLE from bringing her passengers back from Yarmouth to Bournemouth and she took them instead to Lymington for return by coach. Over 400 passengers booked for the "tall ships" cruise from Bournemouth to Southampton on 24 August and the POOLE BELLE was assisted by the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE which also covered the normal Yarmouth trip. All three vessels were chartered on the 25th and there were no sailings from Bournemouth that day.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Dart Pleasure Craft  The QUEEN BOADICEA has been sold and is now operating at Plymouth. She came from London in 1970 and was the firm's first saloon vessel but in recent years has been used mainly as a relief on the Kingswear ferry.

G H Ridalls & Sons, Dartmouth, have bought the SOUTHERN COMFORT OF PLYMSTOCK from Mr Bridge of Plymouth and have renamed her DARTMOTHIAN. She spent most of her life as the River Dart Steamboat Co's SEYMOUR CASTLE.

Plymouth Boat Cruises This new firm took delivery of the PLYMOUTH VENTURER in May. Built by W Visick & Sons at Perranwell near Truro, and fitted out by Mashfords at Cremyll, she is 80 ft long, measures 94 grt and closely resembles the Millbrook Steamboat Co's CARDIFF CASTLE. She has a Class V certificate for 250 passengers and a Class VI for 150. She works with the smaller PLYMOUTH PRINCESS which is believed to have been converted from the THAMES BRITANNIA. They offer public trips from Phoenix Wharf in competition with the Millbrook Steamboat Co, around the Dockyard, to Calstock and to Looe.

K J Bridge, Plymouth The SOUTHERN COMFORT OF PLYMSTOCK has been replaced by a smaller vessel named SOUTHERN COMFORT.

J Fildew, Plymouth The MAYFLOWER was holed in the early hours of 17 August and partly sank at her mooring. The owner claimed that the damage was deliberate. The vessel was back in service a few days later.

G H & W G Pill, Falmouth, now own the TUDOR PRINCE which is operating morning and afternoon River Fal cruises. Originally the TORBAY PRINCE, she last ran in 1979 from Pembroke Dock and subsequently spent some time laid-up in the Isle of Man. The WESTMINSTER BELLE has been on the market for £16 000 and the SKYLARK II is also being offered, for £12 000.

## BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions A meeting was held in Bristol on 6 August to try to gain support for the purchase of an excursion ship for the Bristol Channel. With help from the Wales Tourist Board and others, it is hoped to buy the BRADING and/or SOUTHSEA when they become available.

F E Watts, Weston-super-Mare To replace the IVANHOE which was wrecked last winter, the WESTON LADY was transferred from Plymouth. Day trips to Steep Holm are offered twice-weekly at a fare of £5.50. The WESTON MAID continues to run at Plymouth.

## IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN took the annual charter from Workington to Douglas on 30 August; bad weather prevented her from berthing at Workington in the evening and she spent the night at sea with 1100 passengers aboard before berthing the next morning. That day's Llandudno trip was cancelled but she made her final trip from Llandudno on 1 September. On Saturday the 4th, she made a long day trip from Liverpool to Douglas organised in conjunction with the Manxman Steamer Society. This is expected to be her final passenger sailing, though she is to be used in the making of a film before being sold.

 © G P Hamer 6 September 1982

# TRIP OUT

**October 1982**

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THAMES

Thames Launches The ROYAL PRINCESS has been advertised for sale by brokers and by her owners, Impala Ltd of Hastings. She is apparently the last vessel owned by Thames Launches, once the largest fleet in London; since 1978 she has been used only for charter trips, being based at Westminster.

SOUTH COAST

Waverley Steam Navigation Co The WAVERLEY completed her south coast programme on 19 September and then returned to Scotland. Most sailings were reasonably well patronised but loadings at Bournemouth were not so good, probably because of a complete lack of advertising at the pier. Additional trips were made on 17 September from Ryde and Southsea to see HMS INVINCIBLE on her return from the Falkland Islands. During the whole season, a total of over 240 000 passenger journeys was made in the WAVERLEY - the highest figure under her present ownership.

Blue Funnel Cruises There have been few trips to Buckler's Hard this season, apparently because of a disagreement over berthing charges. With the SOLENT QUEEN on charter at Weymouth, only four vessels have been active on the Solent and they have concentrated more on charter work and shorter public trips.

Croson For the return of HMS INVINCIBLE on 17 September, the POOLE BELLE made a special trip from Hythe to Portsmouth with a coach connection from Bournemouth; numbers were limited to 220 and all tickets were sold. The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE made her last trip of the season on 17 September. The company may run a trip to see the lifting of the MARY ROSE on 10 October.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co Current plans for the replacement of the ILE DE SERK involve the construction of a steel-hulled vessel to carry 140 passengers in summer and about 70 in winter, while cargo would be carried in a second-hand coaster.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN made her final trip of the season as scheduled on 2 October. Throughout her season, she was generally reported to be well-run, smartly maintained and to have good catering. The service is expected to be repeated next year. The NEW ROSELAND returned to service in the peak season, normally making trips to Brixham. She has since been advertised for sale again, for £14 000.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The inter-island passenger/cargo launch TEAN has been withdrawn from service and is being offered for sale for £10 000. Built for the Royal Navy in 1941, she has served the islands since 1953 when the company bought her.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Canal Leisure Cruises, Shardlow, sold the AQUARIUS in February and replaced her with a new wide-beam vessel built by Hancock & Lane. The AQUARIUS II entered service in April and can carry 60 passengers.

NORTH WEST

Bithells Boats, Chester The RAGLAN, a 42-ft boat with a varnished mahogany hull dating from 1922, has been offered for sale for £6900.

Castle Express The HIGHLAND SEABIRD ended her trips from the Mersey to North Wales after only about a month. Traffic is believed to have been very poor but the operators blame bad weather. She is laid-up in Morpeth Dock, Birkenhead, until trials with the Merseyside PTE resume.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN was laid-up in Vittoria Dock, Birkenhead, after her final trip to the island on 4 September. Between 19 and 26 September, she was used for filming in Liverpool Bay, carrying the Russian name MOSKVA. She was sold for at least £100 000 to Marda (Squash) Ltd which runs two squash and leisure clubs in the Preston area; they plan to use her as a conference and leisure centre and maritime museum at Preston. She left Vittoria Dock for the last time on 1 October and on the morning of the 3rd steamed to Preston with about 1000 passengers who had each paid £12.50 for the 4-hour voyage. The MANX MAID was laid-up at Birkenhead on about 13 September and was followed on the 20th by the BEN-MY-CHREE. It is not yet clear what sort of services will be offered by the company next year with a fleet of only four passenger ships.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 October 1982

# TRIP OUT

**November 1982**

Once again it is time for the 'Trip Out' annual lists of the "top ten" UK excursion fleets. As before, only vessels used mainly for pleasure trips in the past summer are included. The DEVONIUN has not been included but if she were, Torbay Seaways would figure in the lists with a total gross tonnage of 980. The numbers in brackets are last year's positions.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(2) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 2(9) | Catamaran Cruisers | 804 |
| 3(3) | George Wheeler | 781 |
| 4(5) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 713 |
| 5(1) | Waverley Excursions | 693 |
| 6(4) | BR (Windermere) | 622 |
| 7(6) | Woods River Services | 620 |
| 8(8) | Salter Bros | 493 |
| 9(10) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 455 |
| 10(-) | Blue Funnel Cruises | 411 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(3) | Salter Bros | 2258 |
| 2(5) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 1647 |
| 3(4) | George Wheeler | 1910 |
| 4(2) | BR (Windermere) | 1840 |
| 5(6) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1472 |
| 6(7) | Millbrook Steamboat | 1306 |
| 7(1) | Waverley Excursions | 1260 |
| 8(8) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 1256 |
| 9(9) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1203 |
| 10(10) | Broads Tours | 1140 |

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THAMES

Sailings from Westminster upriver to Kew and Hampton Court continued on a regular basis until mid-October. The FORDSON made further trips to Hampton Court on 30 and 31 October, the latest in recent years if not the latest ever.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Services Two HM2 hovercraft, acquired early in 1981 and used mainly for contract work, have been sold, reportedly to the Caribbean. The company's four hydrofoils now operate both the public Cowes service and Vosper Thornycroft workers' charter service.

Croson The POOLE BELLE finished her season on 30 September. The DORSET BELLE continued till the end of October, sailing daily except Saturdays to Durlston Head in the mornings and to the Dorset Lakes in the afternoons. Swanage Pier is to be transferred to Swanage Council to be run by the Swanage Pier Trust which hopes to reopen the pier in the spring of 1983.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The 1983 brochure was published in October and shows schedules broadly similar to previous years'. There are some timetable variations at weekends in July and August, when the EARL GRANVILLE takes the Saturday sailing from the Islands to Weymouth and returns overnight, while the Saturday Portsmouth sailing is taken by one of the Weymouth ships. Ordinary fares are increased to £24.20 single from Weymouth and £25.70 from Portsmouth. 'Nightflyer' excursions are cheaper than this year and are offered for as little as £15.

Others The two services from Granville to Jersey carried a total of 49 586 passengers this season, an increase of 2% over 1981.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The company's accounts for the year ended on 31 March show turnover of £1 131 852 (4% more than the previous year's) and a loss after tax of £15 891, compared with a loss of £28 074 in 1980/81. The depression is blamed for poor traffic, though passenger numbers in 1981 were slightly higher than in 1980. The service will be suspended between 16 and 29 November for the SCILLONIAN III's refit.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Severn & Canal Carrying Co has gone into liquidation and the Coombe Hill Canal and boats on it are to be sold; it would seem that no trips were operated on the canal this year. The position of the LADY SABRINA, which operated on the River Severn, is not known. Bosworth Field Boat Trips have introduced the new 70-ft 45-passenger KING RICHARD III on the Ashby Canal. Short public trips between Sutton Cheney Wharf and Bosworth Battlefield were offered on Sundays and Bank Holidays. A rival service was proposed by Mr and Mrs Toms using their horse-drawn RYE which ran at Ellesmere Port in 1981, but permission was refused by the British Waterways Board and controversy has surrounded the matter throughout the summer.

MISCELLANY

Boatbuilders R W Davis & Son of Saul near Gloucester are selling a 63-ft Class VI steel passenger vessel hull. The vessel was to have been a sistership of Mr M D Barrow's DEVON PRINCESS II, built at the same yard, but the purchaser, who has not been named, seems to have defaulted. Offers for the vessel close on 5 November.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 November 1982

# TRIP OUT

**December 1982**

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THAMES

Services between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich have been running to their half-hourly winter schedule since 1 November; boats in service have been the ELEANOR ROSE, HOLLYWOOD, KINGWOOD, MARCHIONESS, TIDEWAY and TIDEWAY VENTURE, based at Westminster, and the GOLDEN SALAMANDER, SILVER DOLPHIN and SILVER MARLIN, based at Tower Pier. London Launches have continued Flood Barrier cruises from Westminster on most days at 1330.

Greenwich Pleasure Craft The CHAY BLYTH has been advertised for sale by shipbrokers for £150 000. She has run from Charing Cross for three seasons, having previously been on a long-term charter to George Wheeler Launches. It is a condition of sale that she must be renamed.

F & B Boat Cot Kingston The ALPHA III has been put on the market for £46 000. She was acquired two years ago to replace the SKYLARK X which was offered for sale and laid-up in 1981, but returned to service last summer.

SOUTH COAST

M J Rayment, Cowes The JENNY LEE, a glass fibre launch claimed to be capable of 16 knots, has been offered for sale for £26 000. She was originally the NEMESIS II at Saundersfoot and has run from Cowes for the past five seasons.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL WILLIAM struck the Platte Rock Beacon off St Helier when arriving from Weymouth on 20 November. Her day sailing to the mainland was cancelled but she left that night for Weymouth.

Vedettes Blanches There will be no service between St-Malo and Jersey between 7 January and 3 February while the SOLIDOR is off service for refit.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways A brochure giving details of the 1983 Channel Islands service and inclusive holidays will be available soon. Sailings will be to Guernsey on Thursdays and Saturdays, and to Alderney on alternate Tuesdays in May, June and September and every Tuesday in July and August.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Severn & Canal Carrying Co The LADY SABRINA was offered for sale by the liquidators with a closing date of 1 December. She had operated on the River Severn for only one season and is believed to have previously been the MISTRESS QUICKLY of Stratford-on-Avon.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The HIGHLAND SEABIRD ended a lay-up of nearly two months at Birkenhead on 2 November to resume trials on the ferry services. If these are successful, the MPTE may buy her for a reported £500 000.

MISCELLANY

Work on rebuilding the pier at Bangor, Gwynedd, began in November. It was closed some years ago and was sold last year for 1p by Arfon District Council to Bangor City Council on condition that repairs are carried out.

The former Red Funnel vessel MEDINA, used as a floating restaurant at Brighton Marina since June 1977, has been sold for scrap and was towed from Brighton on 19 October. She served Red Funnel from 1931 to 1962, then went to Gibraltar as a tender before returning to this country for static use in the early 1970s.

Work is progressing aboard the TATTERSHALL CASTLE in London to extend the upper deck over her former car deck to provide more enclosed space; she is still open as a pub.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 5 December 1982

# TRIP OUT

**January 1983**

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EAST ANGLIA

Gooderham & Hayward, Snape, last summer began operating the LADY MOYRA, formerly one of P & A Campbells' Lundy launches, on the River Alde. Normal trips from the Maltings at Snape last one hour.

THAMES

Greenwich Pleasure Craft Public services from Charing Cross have been suspended for the winter, but will resume on 1 February.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail On the Ryde service, from 31 January to 26 March, Monday to Saturday times are revised to allow a car ferry to replace the BRADING and SOUTHSEA for refit; departures are up to 8 minutes earlier than normal to allow for the longer crossing time. Summer services on all routes are similar to last year's. There is no indication of when the two new Fishbourne car ferries are due in service.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail At weekends in July and August, the Channel Island ships will fit a return trip to Cherbourg into their schedules leaving Weymouth at 1530; this will be performed by the EARL GRANVILLE on Saturdays and one of the other two on Sundays.

Hovercross The PECONIC QUEEN has been offered for sale by brokers. She was built in America but has run between Gorey and Carteret since 1978.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M D Barrow, Exmouth There are some changes to next season's sailings by the DEVON PRINCESS II. The day trip from Exmouth to Torquay and the River Dart, previously offered daily except Saturdays, will be replaced on Sundays by a morning cruise and an afternoon trip from Exmouth to Brixham, and on Wednesdays there will be a day trip from Exmouth to Torquay and Brixham. Evening cruises will be varied to include a landing at Turf Locks or Topsham on some dates. Mr Barrow did not take over the Exmouth-Starcross ferry as expected last summer and the service was operated by Mr A stuart, owner of the SEA CREST.

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN's 1983 season extends from 21 May to 27 September, slightly less than last year's. She sails from Torquay at 0755 and from Alderney or Guernsey at 1655; six hours and five minutes are allowed for the crossing to Guernsey. The single fare has been increased from £17.50 to £20, and through bookings are being offered to Jersey for £29 using a BR ship between Guernsey and Jersey.

A J G England, Padstow The business, including the TRI STAR and two 12-passenger speed boats, has been advertised for sale for £130 000. It was similarly offered five years ago but did not find a buyer.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Grand Union Cruisers, Uxbridge The business has been taken over from Kenrick Marine by Inland Marine Leisure Ltd. The narrow boat BYNG KENRICK has been renamed THE MIDLANDER.

Waterways Holidays, Weedon The narrow boat CAPTAIN PUGWASH has been advertised for sale.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The HIGHLAND SEABIRD grounded at Liverpool Pier Head on 20 December and the 90 passengers aboard had to wait 45 minutes for the ROYAL IRIS to tow her off. She was off service for a few days for repairs. The trials were due to end on 8 January and the PTE is now considering chartering a hovercraft for similar trials.

British Rail The Windermere service will again be operated by three ships this year and the SWIFT will remain laid-up.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The 1983 schedules show significant reductions in the Fleetwood and Ardrossan services and, as expected, no Llandudno sailings. The cargo ferry N F JAGUAR has been bought by James Fisher & Sons of Barrow who will charter her to the Steam Packet Co; she is to be renamed PEVERIL.

MISCELLANY

The ps WINGFIELD CASTLE was towed from the Medway in late October and reached Swansea on the 31st. Whitbread claim that the cost of buying her and converting her to a pub will be £400 000. They plan either to moor her in the River Tawe or to move her overland to a berth in the South Dock (the entrance lock is too narrow for her).

 © G P Hamer 10 January 1983

# TRIP OUT

**February 1983**

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NORTH EAST

Robinsons Hire Cruisers, Dewsbury  The CALDER LADY is now leased to another operator, trading as Calder Lady Cruises. Robinsons are currently fitting out a 51-passenger wooden boat for service on the Rochdale Canal and hope to start operating at the Spring Bank Holiday.

EAST ANGLIA

Broadland Chalets, Oulton Broad, will not be operating this year and the SPIRIT OF BROADLAND, a waterbus built by Lawrence & Brown of Brecon, is to be sold.

THAMES

French Brothers, Runnymede  Next season's public trips follow the pattern of recent years: the Hampton Court service operates on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 16 May to 15 September. Shorter cruises are offered from Easter to October - 2-hour trips on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons and 35-minute trips daily.

SOUTH COAST

Boscombe Sea Cruises  The licence to ply from Boscombe, which expires at the end of this year, has been transferred from Mr P Penel to Mr J H Megoran who last season chartered the SOLENT QUEEN for trips from Weymouth. It is not clear whether the ISLAND QUEEN will continue to be used for the trips from Boscombe.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co  The new vessel to replace the ILE DE SERK is expected to enter service in June or July. It will be 68 ft long and will carry 140 passengers.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J Clarke, Plymouth  The DUCHESS has been advertised for sale for £10 000. She came to Plymouth in 1979 after service in London, Dartmouth and Exeter.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

A firm called Rockhaven Shipping Co Ltd has placed advertisements in the shipping press seeking a ship to run on the Bristol Channel. A vessel carrying at least 550 passengers is required on charter from mid-March to mid-September. No details of the company's background or ownership are available.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Grand Union Cruisers, Uxbridge, have offered to sell or lease the operation of their passenger vessel THE MIDLANDER, recently renamed from BYNG KENRICK.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE  The HIGHLAND SEABIRD did not return to service after her accident on 20 December and has since been laid-up at Birkenhead.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN went into dry dock at Birkenhead on 18 January and was replaced in service by the BEN-MY-CHREE. The company's preliminary results for 1982 show a loss after tax of £131 572, a significant improvement over 1981 when the loss was £620 552.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 February 1983

# TRIP OUT

**March 1983**

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Waverley Excursions At an inquiry in Glasgow on 14-18 February, Captain David Neill was cleared of charges of incompetence made by the Department of Trade. The blame for the loss of the PRINCE IVANHOE in 1981 was placed on Capt Goldie who was on the bridge at the time. Capt Neill will continue to command the WAVERLEY. She begins her 1983 season on 16 April with a Bideford-Lundy charter, and after another Lundy charter on the 17th, proceeds to Plymouth and Eastbourne, then to the Thames (23 April - 4 May), North East England (7-15 May), Firth of Forth (16-23 May), Firth of Clyde (29 May - 5 June), Bristol Channel (7-28 June), Firth of Clyde (1 July - 25 August), South Coast (27 August - 18 September) and Firth of Clyde (23-26 September).

NORTH EAST

Robinsons Hire Cruisers The vessel being introduced on the Rochdale Canal is the KINGFISHER bought from White Rose Line of York. She will run between Todmorden and Hebden Bridge.

THAMES

Woods River Services The SIR THOMAS MORE, introduced on sightseeing cruises last year, is to be joined by a sistership named SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE this year. The new vessel will run from Charing Cross Pier. Both vessels are 94 ft long and carry 154 passengers.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The delivery of the two new car ferries is not now expected before the autumn when they will replace the CAMBER QUEEN, FISHBOURNE and FRESHWATER.

Red Funnel Services 100 passengers spent seven hours aboard the NORRIS CASTLE off Cowes on 24 February when her radar failed in fog.

J H Megoran will be operating sailings from both Boscombe and Weymouth this summer using the ISLAND QUEEN and a vessel to be chartered from Blue Funnel Cruises, probably the SOLENT QUEEN or VERDA.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL GODWIN arrived at Barry for refit on 10 February.

Condor The 1983 season of Jersey to St-Malo services extends from 11 February to 13 November. Guernsey is served from 18 March to 22 October and Sark from 27 March to 22 October. Alderney trips, which were not possible last year, are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 May to 18 September.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M R Walker, Brixham, is having a new boat named CALYPSO to replace his present vessel of the same name.

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co is now under the same ownership as Dart Pleasure Craft. This year some vessels are being exchanged: the DARTMOUTH CASTLE will run at Plymouth and the SOUTHERN and WESTERN BELLES will be on the River Dart. The QUEEN BOADICEA, which last year was leased to another operator at Plymouth, will again be at Plymouth this season.

K J Bridge, Plymouth The SOUTHERN COMFORT, which entered service last season, was converted by Mr Bridge from a Naval launch built at Portsmouth in 1955.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Sailings run daily (except Sundays) from 25 March to 8 October this year, with two round trips on Saturdays 28 May, 4 June and from 2 July to 3 September. A round trip is being offered on four Sundays, 19 June, 17 July, 7 and 21 August, the first scheduled Sunday trips since 1974. The single or day return fare is £15. The inter-island launch TEAN which was for sale last autumn, is being returned to service.

## MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Sherwood Line, Nottingham, will this year be operating only the narrow boat MAID OF SHERWOOD from the Nottingham Canal Museum. The SYLVIA II has been sold to Canal Leisure Cruises of Shardlow, while the other three vessels will continue to run on the River Trent at Nottingham under new ownership.

## NORTH WEST

National Trust Last year's arrangement under which the GONDOLA was managed by British Rail is not being continued and for the 1983 season, which runs from 3 April to 9 October, she is again run by the Trust.

## IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co In the 1982 season, the company carried 8.7% fewer staying visitors and 6.9% fewer day trippers than in 1981. The number of excursionists from Llandudno increased by 800, but there was a fall of over 2000 from Fleetwood. On other routes, traffic from Liverpool and Ardrossan fell but there was a large increase from Dublin. 81 000 passengers travelled in the MANXMAN, including 19 000 day trippers. The company's revenue increased by 7% to £12 241 562 but, thanks to fuel savings and other measures, costs increased by only 0.3%. The BEN-MY-CHREE was drydocked between 5 and 10 February while the LADY OF MANN ran alone. On the 24th, the MONA'S QUEEN replaced the LADY in service.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 March 1983

# TRIP OUT

**April 1983**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's first trip of the season, on 16 April, is from Ilfracombe, not as stated in the last issue; the Bideford-Lundy charter is on the 17th. She has cruises from Plymouth on the 19th and Eastbourne on the 21st, then moves to Gillingham for a day trip to Greenwich on 23 April. She sails from Tower Pier from 27 April to 4 May and on 30 April makes her first call at Whitstable. From 7 May, she is based at Newcastle.

THAMES

Services from Westminster and Tower Piers began summer schedules on 28 March, and Kew sailings resumed; Hampton Court sailings began at Easter. Charing Cross services resumed after a winter break prolonged by dredging work carried out at the pier in March.

Woods River Services The SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE has been delivered and is berthed at Wapping Pier with her sister SIR THOMAS MORE.

Tidal Cruisers last year bought the VISCOUNTESS and a share in the. Westminster-Greenwich service from Catamaran Cruisers. The MARCHIONESS has run with the VISCOUNTESS on the Greenwich service. This spring the VISCOUNTESS has been rebuilt with a steel saloon in place of the original wooden one.

Hazlemere Marine, Waltham Abbey, has ordered a 65-ft 60-passenger wide-beam boat from Rugby Boatbuilders for restaurant cruises on the River Lee.

SOUTH COAST

British Rail The first of the two new car ferries was launched at Leith on 30 March and named ST CATHERINE.

Red Funnel Services The NETLEY CASTLE collided with a small vessel at Southampton at about 2330 on 28 March. She was taken out of service with a gash on her starboard side.

Needles Pleasure Cruises is the trading name of Mr I N Watling who has taken over the Alum Bay business of Mr A W Isaacs in conjunction with Mr S Crane of Keyhaven. Five boats are operated on trips from Keyhaven, Yarmouth and Alum Bay. Mr Isaacs' MAID MARION was taken over and renamed ISLAND ROSE, while the Hayling Island ferry launch IRIS was bought and renamed YARMOUTH ROSE.

A W Isaacs Having sold the Alum Bay trade and MAID MARION, Mr Isaacs now uses the MAVERICK for trips from Totland Bay to the Needles, mainly for parties.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL GODWIN left Barry after her refit on 28 February and on the same day the EARL GRANVILLE arrived on the Tyne for her refit.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Green's Passenger Launches, Newark, have bought Salters' SONNING for service on the River Trent. Mr Green previously ran the MAY QUEEN at Sheffield; she has been offered for sale for £18 000.

Clayton Line, operators of the STENSON BUBBLE on the Trent & Mersey Canal, have taken over the three River Trent passenger vessels of Sherwood Line - the SUCCESS, TAMAR BELLE and VICTORIA. They will continue to operate from Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

MISCELLANY

The National Trust's 1982 visiting figures for its islands were: St Michael's Mount 163 000 (168 000 in 1981); Brownsea 119 000 (108 000); Farne 35 000 (41 000).

British Rail's turbine steamer CALEDONIAN PRINCESS arrived at Newcastle under tow on 2 March to be converted to a leisure centre. She had been laid-up at Newhaven since October 1981.

After a very short and unsuccessful career as a floating restaurant and pub at Dundee, the BALMORAL has been advertised for sale for £160 000.

The ROCHESTER QUEEN (ex QUEEN OF SCOTS) was towed from London to Rochester on 7 March; she is to open as a floating pub.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 April 1983

# TRIP OUT

**May 1983**

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Waverley Excursions A copy of the WAVERLEY's 1983 timetable is enclosed with this issue. Sailings so far have been well patronised with full loads carried from Bideford, Eastbourne and Whitstable amongst others.

THAMES

Woods River Services The SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE entered service from Charing Cross in April, offering 1½-hour cruises to Chelsea and Tower Bridge four times daily. The fare of £4.50 includes an audio-visual commentary in eight languages. The vessel berths overnight with her sister SIR THOMAS MORE at Wapping Pier.
D Rose, Rochester, will not be running the QUEEN OF KENT this season, though the vessel's future has yet to be decided.

SOUTH COAST

J H Megoran will be using a chartered Blue Funnel vessel from Boscombe Pier this summer and it is reported that the ISLAND QUEEN is unlikely to be used as a passenger vessel again. Mr Megoran has also considered buying the Isle of Sark Shipping Co's TERESA OF SARK for the Boscombe service.
Croson The POOLE and DORSET BELLEs were refitted in March and the former ran local cruises from Bournemouth at Easter and resumes sailing this month. It is expected that only two vessels will run from Bournemouth this season and the possibility of chartering the DORSET BELLE to Mursell & Kemp of Sandown has been discussed. Croson would also like to install new piling at Swanage Pier to allow their vessels to berth there again.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Rail The EARL GRANVILLE left the Tyne on 28 March to resume service from Portsmouth after refit. In preparation for her Weymouth sailings in July and August, she carried out berthing trials at the Dorset port in December. The EARL WILLIAM is being chartered by a local Parent-Teacher Association on 14 May for an excursion to Cherbourg. Last year eight charter excursions were made from Weymouth to Guernsey or Cherbourg.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Rockhaven Shipping, who earlier this year were seeking to charter a ship for Bristol Channel service, are now known to be associated with West Country Shipping who were interested in running a service in 1981. West Country Shipping's coaster BARNSTAPLE TRADER was arrested at Inverness in February and a creditors' meeting was subsequently held.

An Ipswich company has proposed to run a vehicle ferry service from South Wales to Cornwall for passengers and cargo - a ship would be chartered to start in 1984.
Dundas Carrying Co, Bath The paddleboat JANE AUSTEN has been advertised for sale for £3000; she has no DoT Certificate as the canal at Bath is not regarded as a navigable waterway.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Willow Wren Cruises, Braunston The owners of the WATER OUZEL, Mr and Mrs Walker, intend to retire and have offered the business for sale. The WATER OUZEL is operating as usual this season. Charnwood Marine, Leicester, took over the operation of the THOMAS SKIPWITH last August. She was built for Coles Morton Marine at nearby Sileby, but the company became bankrupt last summer. Green's Passenger Launches, Newark The SONNING was taken by road from Oxford to Hull and then sailed upriver to Newark. The MAY QUEEN is also now based at Newark, though has been offered for sale. Mr Green's business at Sheffield has been sold to a Mr and Mrs Tulley.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE Co-op Travel is offering Manchester Ship Canal cruises on 10 and 11 September, sailing from Liverpool on the Saturday and from Manchester on the Sunday. The single fare is £6.95 and a rail/ship return is £8.95.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Easter services were operated by the BEN-MY-CHREE and the two motorships; the BEN' came off service after the holiday.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 May 1983

# TRIP OUT

**June 1983**

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NORTH EAST

H J Hanvey & Sons, Seahouses  The ST CUTHBERT sank in April when a water tank being unloaded at Longstone Island was dropped onto the boat.  She was refloated and towed back to Seahouses.  No passengers were aboard at the time.

Robinsons Hire Cruisers  The KINGFISHER, which begins trips on the Rochdale Canal this summer, was named PRINCESS KATHARINE until 1981 - she ran at York then Sheffield before being renamed.

THAMES

The GLC is building a new pier at the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank.  The pontoon will be from the old Festival Gardens Pier at Battersea which last saw regular boat services in 1977.  The new pier is costing £400 000 and will open this summer.

Meridian Line Cruises  The SWANAGE QUEEN is due to make public day trips from Greenwich to Southend on 17 July and 17 August.  The fare this year is £7 and advance hooking is recommended.

British Waterways Board (Regent's Canal)  The WATER NYMPH has been advertised for sale for £10 000.

SOUTH COAST

Mursell & Kemp (Sandown)  The DORSET BELLE has been chartered from Croson for the season from 1 May, but in mid May she spent a few days on a sub-charter to Blue Funnel Cruises.

Blue Funnel Cruises now concentrate on charter work and the range of public trips has been much reduced in recent years.  There are no public calls at Cowes, no cruises from Buckler's Hard and trips to Buckler's Hard are offered only from Ryde and Southsea and not from Southampton.  The firm has been discussing plans for a new vessel with local shipyards.

Boscombe and Weymouth Sea Cruises  Mr Megoran has, after all, bought the TERESA OF SARK for this summer's Boscombe services.  She sails to Yarmouth on Tuesdays and Thursdays and to Brownsea Island daily except Sundays; in the peak seaon there will be a long day trip to Yarmouth on Weds and Fris.  There are also Dorset Lakes cruises and evening cruises.  Further details can be obtained from the kiosk at Boscombe Pier.

Croson  The POOLE BELLE ran local cruises on 1 and 2 May and resumed on the 23rd.  The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE was refitted in May and starts her season on the 29th.  In June, the POOLE BELLE will make IoW trips on Mondays to Fridays and local cruises on Sundays, and the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE will make a morning Dorset coast cruise, and afternoon cruises round the Bay and to the Dorset Lakes daily.  There will be no Isle of Wight trips on Sundays this year.  Croson hopes to resume calls at Swanage Pier in July on a thrice weekly basis.  There will be a special boat/coach trip to Buckler's Hard on 24 July in connection with the annual "village festival".

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN opened her season as scheduled on 21 May having apparently been to Southampton for refit. Day excursion fares this season are £18 to Guernsey and £15.50 to Alderney but June Alderney trips (on the 7th and 21st) are offered for only £10. Evening showboat cruises from Torquay are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays, as last year.

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co The cruise to the River Yealm, offered daily in previous years, runs this season on Sats and Suns from 2 July to 11 September, and on Wednesdays from 13 July to 7 September, leaving at 1500. Trips up the Tamar are scheduled for 72 dates between 22 May and 18 September; most are to Calstock only, but on 23 July, 8 and 22 August and 6 September the destination is Morwellham, and on 9 July, 7 August and 5 September the vessel cruises to Weir Head.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet Two charters of interest on the TOWER BELLE are on 23 July to Hanham and Keynsham (PSPS) and on 30 July to Bath ('Waterways World').

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Droitwich Canals Trust has bought the LADY SABRINA from the bankrupt Severn & Canal Carrying Co. She will be refitted ready to offer trips on the summit level of the Droitwich Barge Canal when it is restored for navigation, possibly next autumn.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The sailing from Fleetwood to Douglas on 26 June is being promoted by the Manxman Steamer Society with extra attractions aboard; the normal day return fare of £11 applies.

MISCELLANY

Sealink UK made a profit of £2.9 million before interest charges in 1982 compared with a £700 000 loss in 1981. There was an operating loss of £1 million from the shipping services (£5.7 million in 1981), which was offset by a profit from the ports and harbours.

 © G P Hamer 27 May 1983

# TRIP OUT

**July 1983**

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NORTH EAST

A Middlesbrough firm calling itself Cleveland Cruising has advertised for a boat up to 60 ft long and carrying at least 60 passengers. No passenger trips have been available on the Tees in the last two years, apart from the WAVERLEY's visits.

EAST ANGLIA

George Gooderham (Investments), Snape The LADY MOYRA is being chartered on 10 September for a cruise from Aldeburgh. to Orford and then back to Snape. Further details will be given next month.

THAMES

The pattern of services between Westminster and Tower Piers has changed this season; the Tower-based vessels no longer run a separate service to Westminster and instead make round trips from Westminster to the Tower jointly with the Westminster-based vessels. Fewer boats are needed as a result and the FERRY BELLE and MINDEN ROSE have been advertised for sale for £10 000 and £6000 respectively. The Westminster to Greenwich service has been operating at half hour intervals this season instead of every 20 minutes.

J D Polkinghorn, Southend The DREADNOUGHT has not been commissioned this season and is laid-up at Leigh. She has been advertised for sale for £7500.

Greenwich Pleasure Craft The PRIDE OF GREENWICH collided with a sand dredger on 9 June near Charing Cross. She was slightly damaged but no one was injured.

W A Jackson, Westminster & Richmond The HENLEY, which normally sails from Westminster to Kew, makes an evening cruise from Putney at 1930 on Sundays. The YARMOUTH BELLE is offering some public disco cruises from Richmond and a disco is also held on her Sunday afternoon trip to Hampton Court.

Turk Launches, Kingston A new public trip this season is a 4-hour cruise through Sunbury leaving Kingston at 1200 and Hampton Court at 1230 on Sundays. The Kingston to Hampton Court service runs daily at 45 minute intervals, usually by the EMPRESS OF INDIA and NEW SOUTHERN BELLE. The latter was reported to have collided with a tanker at Lambeth late on 8 June; damage was slight and there were no injuries.

SOUTH EAST

Southern Water Authority has begun trips on Bewl Bridge Reservoir near Tunbridge Wells. The 70-passenger FRANCES MARY offers hour long cruises.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Services The company's 1982 accounts show a significant improvement in profits, attributed to better results from the tug fleet. There was a "small reduction" in traffic on the ferry services.

Boscombe. & Weymouth Sea Cruises The TERESA OF SARK is now running from Boscombe, but has been offered for sale already by shipbrokers.

Blue Funnel Cruises Two of the converted Gosport ferries have been advertised for sale - one is available now for £6000 without a passenger certificate and another will be available in September for £15 000. A new vessel has apparently been ordered as a replacement.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Vedettes Blanches A new Westamaran named TRIDENT has taken over the service from St-Malo to Jersey this season. The BELLE DE DINARD has been transferred to the Granville route and the BELLE DE JERSEY is expected to be sold.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The NEW ROSELAND has been sold and is now running from Helensburgh. She was last advertised for sale in January when the asking price was £13 000. She had spent just three seasons at Torquay.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's visit to the Bristol Channel was generally successful and many sailings were full. A broken paddle float delayed her by 2 hours on evening of 19 June; repairs were completed overnight at Barry. An extra sailing was made on 29 June from Barry for handicapped children before she returned to Scotland.

NORTH WEST

Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port Trips are available from the museum on the Shropshire Union Canal in the narrow boat SHAD, bought by the museum two years ago and converted to carry passengers last winter. She was built in 1936 for Fellows, Morton & Clayton.

Merseyside PTE The HIGHLAND SEABIRD travelled from Birkenhead to lay-up on the Clyde on 18 May and will not be used on the Mersey again.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANX MAID left Birkenhead on 26 May to begin her season.

Sealink UK The MANX VIKING was taken out of service on 25 June and is at Holyhead for engine repairs which are expected to take two weeks. She has been replaced by the VALENCAY.

MISCELLANY

Following recent Government reorganisation, responsibility for surveying passenger vessels and issuing certificates has been transferred from the Department of Trade to the Department of Transport.

The former Isles of Scilly ship QUEEN OF THE ISLES which went to Tonga in 1970 is now named GULF EXPLORER and makes 2- and 5-night cruises from Aukland, New Zealand; she has been fitted with accommodation for 86 passengers.

 © G P Hamer 6 July 1983

# TRIP OUT

**August 1983**

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EAST ANGLIA

George Gooderham (Investments), Snape The LADY MOYRA is being chartered by Mr S Norton on 10 September from Aldeburgh to Orford and Snape, with bus and train connections from various places.

R E Harman, Clacton Following a dispute with the local council, Mr Harman is not running the NEMO II from Clacton and the resort thus has no sea trips. The NEMO II spent the early part of the season at Brightlingsea making school party trips.

THAMES

The Festival Pier in London is now open and a ferry service is operating to it from Westminster.

D & T Scenic's, Reading On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 26 July to 8 September, a trip is being offered to Goring via Purley, Pangbourne and Lower Basildon, covering a section of the river with no other public trips.

SOUTH COAST

The FREE ENTERPRISE V has been chartered by the Poole/ Cherbourg Twinning Association on 6 September for a trip from Poole to Cherbourg. The WAVERLEY's programme on this date will be amended as the Harbour Commissioners will not accept both ships together.

Sealink UK The ST CATHERINE arrived at Portsmouth from Leith on 24 June and subsequently entered service to Fishbourne. The government has refused BR's application for investment of £7.7 million in three new 500-passenger catamarans for the Ryde service; a decision will be delayed until Sealink UK has been sold to private buyers. An HM218 hovercraft has been chartered for two months' trials on the service and began operating on 2 August from Portsmouth Harbour and Clarence Pier. Other charters are being considered to replace the BRADING and SOUTHSEA.

Mursell & Kemp (Sandown) The DORSET BELLE sails on most days to Portsmouth Harbour, with a 3-hour non-landing cruise at 1430 and on some days a day trip to land at 1045. Cruises to Southampton Docks or Buckler's Hard are made occasionally. Some trips start or finish at Cowes, Ryde or Bembridge, with coach connections from Sandown.

Boscombe & Weymouth Sea Cruises The TERESA OF SARK has been found to be too small for the Boscombe trips and the firm has been trying to obtain a larger vessel. There are no trips from Weymouth this season.

Croson Early in the summer, a new landing stage at Swanage Pier was approved, but the owner then died suddenly and plans to reopen the pier have been postponed.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The new vessel was launched on 24 June and named BON MARIN DE SERK.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Green's Passenger Launches, Newark Normal public trips on the SONNING are 2-hour cruises from the Castle Wharf to Farndon. Her passenger certificate covers the non-tidal parts of the Trent and Ouse, together with the canals from Keadby and Goole to Leeds and Rotherham.

E Purver, Newark, bought the JOHN H from White Rose Line of York last winter. Trading as the Lock & Castle Line, he offers 1-hour cruises from the Town Wharf on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings, and charters at other times.

Sherwood Line, Nottingham A second narrow boat has been obtained for trips from the Nottingham Canal Museum. Named LADY GREENSLEEVES, she carries 40 passengers.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Since 15 July, the ships have been berthing at the former B+I Line Jetfoil terminal in Dublin. There has been a significant increase in traffic on the Dublin route this season. The new breakwater at Douglas was officially opened by Princess Alexandra on 14 July; it should help ships to berth in bad weather and make winter diversions to Peel unnecessary.

Sealink UK The MANX VIKING was replaced by the VILLANDRY, not the VALENCAY as stated last month.

MISCELLANY

The former passenger vessel LA DAME DE SERK has been bought by a Mr Sean Farmer and converted in London to a two-masted sailing vessel. She last carried passengers for the Isle of Sark Shipping Co in 1974 and has been laid-up in London for most of the time since then.

 © G P Hamer 3 August 1983

# TRIP OUT

**September 1983**

The first weekend of September brought gales which kept most sea-going passenger ships in port. It brought an end to the best summer weather since 1976 and all excursion operators can be thankful for a busy season. If only every year were the same ...

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THAMES

The new Festival Pier in London is used by several passenger services. There is a ferry service from Westminster Pier, worked by the boats from the Westminster-Tower service. Trips to Tower and Greenwich are run by Greenwich Pleasure Craft whose vessels call at the new pier after leaving Charing Cross. Lunch and evening cruises are offered by Tidal Cruisers and Catamaran Cruisers.

SOUTH COAST

Waverley Excursions Sailings on 3 and 4 September were cancelled by gales.

Blue Funnel Cruises The VERDA has not been in service this season and is reported to have been broken up. The SOLENT QUEEN made what is expected to be her last trip from Southampton on 31 August and is to be sold. Both were converted Gosport steam ferries.

P D Cole, Cowes The MEDINA MIST, a 42-ft steel-hulled vessel, has been advertised for sale.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor has now carried over four million passengers since starting in 1964. The company is now wholly owned by the Commodore Shipping Co which was previously the majority shareholder.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The BON MARIN DE SERK is In service, though the ILE DE SERK is still being used for cargo.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Borough Council has rejected a proposal to run a small hydrofoil between Torquay and Brixham in competition with the Western Lady Ferry Service.

M R Walker, Brixham The new CALYPSO was built of steel by David Abels of Bristol and carries 73 passengers. She normally offers trips to the River Dart.

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co has not offered any trips to Looe this season. The company has taken over the summer service from Plymouth (Mayflower Steps) to Drake's Island and Cremyll, previously operated by Mr B Curtin who chartered a vessel from the Millbrook concern.

Plymouth Boat Cruises has run at least two public trips to Looe this season. The PLYMOUTH PRINCESS's former identity has been confirmed: she was the 1921-built THAMES BRITANNIA of Westminster before rebuilding in 1981/82.

J Clarke, Plymouth The DUCHESS has been sold and has been operating from Oban. Mr Clarke does not appear to have a replacement.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bath Barge Co The PRIDE OF BATH was rebuilt at Bristol before the season and widened by about 3 feet. She now has an open top deck for passengers.

MISCELLANY

Bass Charrington has applied to berth the BALMORAL in London in place of the OLD CALEDONIA, destroyed by fire in 1980.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 September 1983

# TRIP OUT

**October 1983**

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NORTH EAST

Robinson's Hire Cruisers  The KINGFISHER, introduced on the Rochdale Canal this year, has been advertised for sale for £7500.

THAMES

A E Collier, Richmond  The THAMES QUEEN has been put on the market for £8500.

Lea Valley Narrow Boat Co, Ware  The N B HOLLAND is being replaced by a wide-beam vessel and has been offered for sale for £15 000 + VAT.  She was converted for passenger work in 1975.

Hazlemere Marina, Waltham Abbey (R Lea)  The new restaurant boat has been delivered by road from the builders at Rugby.  She is named HAZLEMERE and can take up to 55 passengers for lunch or dinner cruises.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK  The second new car ferry was launched at Leith on 15 September and named ST HELEN.  She is due to be delivered in November, six months behind schedule.

Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY's South Coast visit coincided with poor weather and several sailings were cancelled or curtailed. The sailings are not now expected to be repeated in September 1984.

Hurst Castle Ferry & Cruises  The ISLAND ROSE has been advertised for sale for £6500.

Croson  The POOLE BELLE was due to make her last trip of the season to Yarmouth on 29 September but it was cancelled by thick fog.  The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE continues on local trips until 30 October, and the DORSET BELLE was due back from her charter to Murrell & Kemp in early October.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co  The company was sold in September by the Raglan Property Trust to Silvermist Properties of Chelmsford.  The new owners plan to make some improvements to the ferry this winter.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co  The SCILLONIAN III did not sail on 5 October owing to a dispute between the company and dockers at Penzance, and the service was suspended.  The dispute was apparently settled on the 9th.  From 10 to 31 October, the ship makes four round trips a week with day trips possible on Mondays and Saturdays.  This is reduced to three round trips weekly from 1 to 14 November, but a day trip will still be possible on Mondays.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

T & D Murrell, Southall  The ATLAS has been advertised for sale for £18 500.  She was converted from a barge in 1981.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE  As part of a plan to spend over £2 million on the ferry services, the WOODCHURCH is being returned to service after being laid-up for over two years.  She moved from Birkenhead to Liverpool early in September and was dry-docked later in the month.  The greater part of the money will be spent on renewing the Woodside landing stage at Birkenhead.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN was dry docked between 10 and 19 September. The MANX MAID began her winter lay-up on 19 September. The LADY OF MANN was dry docked between 20 and 28 September and then replaced the BEN-MY-CHREE which was laid-up on the 29th. In the first half of the year, the company's trading loss was £526 000 compared with £951 000 in 1982. Summer traffic is reported to have shown a further decline, except on the Dublin route.

MISCELLANY

The former Isle of Wight ferry MEDINA is now at Rotherhithe on the Thames. She was sold for scrap last October after serving as a floating restaurant at Brighton, but the reason for her removal to London is not known.

The TAY QUEEN has been offered for sale for £40 000 after running in Scotland for three seasons. She was previously the BRIDLINGTON QUEEN.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 9 October 1983

# TRIP OUT

**November 1983**

As usual in November, 'Trip Out' is publishing a list of the UK's ten largest excursion fleets, judged by gross tonnage and by passenger capacity. Only vessels used mainly for pleasure trips in the past summer are included. The biggest change from 1982 is that the Millbrook Steamboat Co and Dart Pleasure Craft are listed as one fleet now that they are under the same ownership. Figures in brackets are last year's positions.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 2(7) | Woods River Services | 1002 |
| 3(3) | George Wheeler | 714 |
| 4(4) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 713 |
| 5(5) | Waverley Excursions | 693 |
| 6(2) | Catamaran Cruisers | 688 |
| 7(6) | Sealink (Windermere) | 622 |
| 8(9) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 455 |
| 9(8) | Salter Bros | 453 |
| 10(-) | Millbrook/ Dart P C | 452 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(6) | Millbrook/ Dart P C | 2161 |
| 2(1) | Salter Bros | 2063 |
| 3(2) | Greenwich Pleasure C | 1947 |
| 4(4) | Sealink (Windermere) | 1840 |
| 5(3) | George Wheeler | 1662 |
| 6(-) | Woods River Services | 1347 |
| 7(7) | Waverley Excursions | 1260 |
| 8(8) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 1256 |
| 9(5) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1217 |
| 10(9) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1203 |

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THAMES

The winter service between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich started on 31 October and is similar to previous years'; the six vessels presently in service are the CONNAUGHT, ELEANOR ROSE, MARCHIONESS, ROSEWOOD, TIDEWAY and TIDEWAY VENTURE. There is no separate service from Tower Pier to Westminster this winter. The season's last trips to Hampton Court were advertised for 30 October and the final upriver trip from Westminster was made on 6 November when the HENLEY sailed to Kew.

A Faversham man has proposed running a summer ferry service between Sheerness and Southend; he claims it could start next year. Greenwich Pleasure Craft have ceased trading and a receiver has apparently been appointed. The company was formed in 1975 and specialised in the charter trade until 1978 when the services from Charing Cross were taken over from Thames Launches. Of the eight vessels in the fleet, six were built at the firm's yard at Greenwich. The closure leaves the SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE as the only vessel offering trips from Charing Cross.

George Wheeler Launches The CLIFTON CASTLE has not been in service this year and was sold late in the summer to A E Collier for service from Richmond to Hampton Court.

SOUTH COAST

Littlehampton Motor Boat Services The SEA BIRD, a 33-ft glass fibre launch, has been offered for sale for £7500.

Arundel River Cruises is a new operator on the River Arun. On 9 October, the vessel was damaged in a collision with Arundel Bridge.

Croson At short notice, the POOLE BELLE was used instead of the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE in October and in addition to local cruises, a day trip to the Isle of Wight was offered every Wednesday until the end of the month - the latest IoW trips for many years.

R A Hale, Poole, has taken over the WHITE HEATHER from Mr Fred Wills who has retired after running boat trips for 39 years.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The coaster FUNCTION has been bought from the London & Rochester Trading Co and is being renamed SARK TRADER. She was built in Holland in 1963 and is of a similar size to the ILE DE SERK which she will replace after a refit on the Medway.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III resumed service on 10 October, but continuing disruption by dockers at Penzance led to a further suspension from the 14th and the ship began her winter refit earlier than intended. In the year ended on 31 March the company's turnover was £1 275 728 (13% more than in the previous year) and there was a loss after tax of £11 327 (compared with a loss of £15 891 the year before). The depressed tourist trade is blamed for the poor results, but cost reductions are expected to produce a profit for this year.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Seymour-Roseblade, Leicester, have ceased operating the PRINCESS MARIE and she has been advertised for sale by Leicester Marina for £4950.

Wolverhampton Passenger Boat Services The STAFFORD has been offered for sale with or without her present base and trade.

NORTH WEST

Willow Wren Kearns, Middlewich The business has been sold by the Kearns family to a Mr C Cliff who now trades as Middlewich Narrowboats.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 November 1983

# TRIP OUT

**December 1983**

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NORTH EAST

Yorkshire Canal Cruisers, Leeds, are to operate a new 58-ft restaurant boat named KIRKSTALL FLY BOAT on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and Aire & Calder Navigation. The boat will carry up to 64 passengers or 54 for "sit-down" meals. The owner is Mr J R Spencer.

EAST ANGLIA

W J & J P Haines, Overy Staithe, run trips to Scolt Head Island and Burnham Overy Beach on the North Norfolk coast between Hunstanton and Blakeney. They have a 28-passenger boat named ROSEMARY IRENE, though she was advertised for sale in November.

Hickling Water Tours In November the business was taken over by Mr H Morphey from Mr M G T Hughes.

THAMES

Woods River Services Both vessels of the associated firm Thames Guided Tours, the SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE and SIR THOMAS MORE, are now running from Charing Cross to Greenwich, with departures from Charing Cross hourly from 1030 to 1530. Passengers are given an audio-visual presentation on the riverside sights. The return fare is £3.50, which compares with £2.30 for the Westminster to Greenwich trip.

SOUTH COAST

Blue Funnel Cruises A new vessel is currently under construction at the Poole shipyard of J Bolson & Son, and delivery is due before the start of next summer.

Southern Coastcrafts Local councils have agreed to assist pay for urgent repairs to Hythe Pier provided the company gives a guarantee to maintain the ferry service.

Rockley Boating Centre, Poole The FROME LADY was chartered by Dorset County Council from 14 to 23 November to provide a free ferry service between Poole Quay and Hamworthy while the road bridge was closed for repairs.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The 1984 brochure has been published and summer services are similar to this year's. Two ships are on the Weymouth route from 9 April to 1 November. On Saturdays from 7 July to 25 August, the EARL GRANVILLE again takes a Weymouth sailing while the EARL WILLIAM goes to Portsmouth; the CI ships operate Weymouth-Cherbourg sailings on these weekends. The winter service from Weymouth is increased from two to four sailings weekly on 13 January. Passenger fares will be the same for both routes and a single journey will cost £26, compared with £24.20 from Weymouth and £25.70 from Portsmouth at present.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The FUNCTION was delivered from Rochester on 1 November and sailed via Colchester to Guernsey, arriving on the 5th. She will be renamed SARK TRADER for the cargo service to the island.

Vedettes Blanches The Westamaran TRIDENT which ran from St-Malo to Jersey last summer was built in 1982 as the VENTURE 84 for Conoco and presumably was intended for the offshore oil industry. She was bought by Vedettes Blanches and renamed in the spring.

NORTH WEST

Bird's Sea Fishing, Fleetwood The WYRE ANGLER has been advertised for sale.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The services to Ireland will be increased in 1984, with 60 round trips to Dublin (compared with 48 scheduled this year) and 44 to Belfast (up from 36).

MISCELLANY

The former cross-channel steamer CALEDONIAN PRINCESS is due to open as a restaurant and bars at Hillgate Quay, Gateshead, on 14 December.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 December 1983

# TRIP OUT

**January 1984**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY is to visit the Thames and South coast in late April and early May, then sails on the Bristol Channel from 19 May to 26 June.

NORTH EAST

White Rose Line, York, is fitting out a new vessel to enter service next season. The steel hull was chartered to a firm of building contractors last autumn for use as a working platform on the River Foss in York.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The ST HELEN is believed to have entered service in December. The transfer of the CAEDMON to Lymington will allow cruises from there to be revived next summer - a 3-hour Solent cruise will be offered on Wednesday afternoons.

Mursell & Kemp (Sandown) The DORSET BELLE was purchased from Croson at the end of the season and did not return to Poole. She replaces the CYRIL LOTTE which was laid up last summer and is now for sale.

Blue Funnel Cruises The new vessel being built at Poole will be 100 ft long - ten feet longer than the ISLAND SCENE and SOLENT SCENE.

Croson will operate only two vessels from Bournemouth in future following the sale of the DORSET BELLE. The firm still hopes to reopen Swanage sailings and there are plans to replace the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE eventually with a 106 ft vessel with disco facilities, etc.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

The services from Granville to Jersey carried 48 326 passengers last summer, a reduction of 2½ % compared with 1982.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The ILE DE SERK is believed to have made her last trip to the island in November. She has been advertised for sale by her owners for £25 000.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN's third season at Torquay follows the same pattern as last year's. She sails to Alderney on Tuesdays from 22 May to 25 September (weekly from 17 July to 28 August, otherwise fortnightly) and to Guernsey on Thursdays and Saturdays from 26 May to 29 September. The single fare is £20 and a period return is £38, while the brochure also offers inclusive holidays on both islands.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III sails daily (except Sundays) from 30 March to 6 October. She makes a double round trip on Saturdays from 26 May to 1 September. Sunday sailings are scheduled for 20 May, 17 June, 15 and 29 July, and 5, 19 and 26 August. The summer single fare is £15, the same as last year.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

There have been a number of proposals for hovercraft services across the River Severn or the Bristol Channel. Restrictions on the use of the Severn Bridge are behind some of the schemes but the financial prospects for such a service are poor.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Avon Bridge Catering & Boating Enterprises, Evesham The GAIETY is being offered for sale.

Droitwich Canals Trust The LADY SABRINA, acquired last year, will enter service on a 3-mile restored stretch of canal next summer. Public trips will be offered at weekends in July and August, and she will be available for charter at other times.

IRISH SEA

Sealink UK There are no Heysham-Douglas sailings from 25 December to 8 January while the MANX VIKING has her annual refit. She arrived at Birkenhead on 27 December for docking.

MISCELLANY

The former passenger vessel DUCHESS DOREEN is due to be sold by auction on 21 January at Eel Pie Island, Twickenham. Built of wood in 1894 as the DUCHESS OF YORK, she sailed on the Thames, then the Severn, before returning to the Thames in the 1970s to offer restaurant cruises for up to 12 people. She sank in 1981 so will need major work before returning to service.

Whitbread is negotiating to berth the former paddle steamer WINGFIELD CASTLE in Cardiff's Bute East Dock. Plans to use her as a pub at Swansea were dropped because she cannot be moved into the South Dock there.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 5 January 1984

# TRIP OUT

**February 1984**

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EAST ANGLIA

J E Knight, Great Yarmouth The GOLDEN GALLEON has been advertised for sale for £50 000. She was offered similarly in 1981 but has remained in service from Yarmouth.

Southern Coastcrafts, Great Yarmouth The BROADLAND BELLE has been offered for sale.

THAMES

R G (Passenger Launches), Erith A fire broke out at the Belvedere landing stage on the evening of 7 January. The fire brigade worked for two hours before it was brought under control at 2010. The TWIN STAR III was gutted and the other two craft were damaged - the total cost is estimated at £100 000. Alternative arrangements were made to transport Ford workers to Dagenham.

French Brothers, Runnymede The PRINCESS MARY has been advertised for sale for £6500. She has run on the Thames for six years, having previously been at York.

Salter Bros Services run from 13 May to 16 September this year, with the usual extra services from 15 July to 2 September. A new feature this year is a 45-minute afternoon cruise from Henley to Temple Island.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK Between 6 February and 31 March, a revised schedule operates on the Ryde route to allow a car ferry to replace the BRADING and SOUTHSEA for refit - departures are up to 8 minutes earlier than normal. The summer timetable is the same as last year's, except that the 2335 from Portsmouth is taken by a passenger ship; it was previously scheduled for a car ferry which called at Ryde en route to Fishbourne, but the new ferries cannot berth at Ryde Pier. The Fishbourne service is hourly, with extra sailings by the CUTHRED on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 21 May to 9 September. A car ferry makes an afternoon cruise from Lymington and Yarmouth on Wednesdays from 4 July to 5 September.

Mursell & Kemp (Sandown) have advertised the CYRIL LOTTE for sale for £21 000, and have applied to have the DORSET BELLE renamed ISLAND ENTERPRISE.

Blue Funnel Cruises will be running some special cruises this summer to mark the fortieth anniversary of "D-Day". Work on the hull of the new vessel was almost complete at the end of January.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) The three smaller boats are used throughout the year as general workboats as well as for carrying passengers in summer. In January the FERRY SPRITE and FERRY NAIAD helped tow the Sandbanks ferry NO.3 to and from Bolson's yard for its annual overhaul.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

The services from Carteret to the Islands are reported to have carried 48 118 passengers last year, a fall of 48% compared with 1982. French currency exchange controls are blamed.

Trident Charter Co A new catamaran is being built by Marine & General Engineering for delivery this spring. The 70-ft steel-hulled vessel was designed by Don Tate and will carry 250 passengers at 12 knots.

WEST OF ENGLAND

A Stuart, Exmouth The ferry to Starcross runs from 6 May to 21 September this year, with five or six trips daily. There is an afternoon cruise on the River Exe daily and an evening trip to land at the Turf Hotel daily (except Saturday) in June, July and August.
Torbay Seaways wants Torbay Council to build a ramp at the Haldon Pier so that the DEVONIUN can be replaced by a roll-on ship. So far, the scheme has been rejected.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boat Co has bought the 40-ft 32-passenger COUNTESS for trips in the City Docks. She was built in the 1890s and ran from Wroxham for Broads Tours. In recent years, she has been at Norwich but is believed to have been used privately.
John Rennie Boat Co, Bath, bought the JANE AUSTEN from the Dundas Carrying Co last year but she is now reported to be for sale again. This year the JOHN RENNIE and Bristol Narrowboats' VICEROY will be operated jointly under the name Bath Canal Cruises, though the boats will retain their separate ownership.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Steam Cruising Co, Norbury Mrs S Rees-Jones, one of the owners, died in November. She and her husband had run the IONA for four seasons, but the business is now for sale.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE resumed service on 18 January, replacing the MONA'S QUEEN which was dry docked at Birkenhead. The company has reported a profit after tax of £351 857 for last year, compared with a loss of £131 572 in 1982. It was the first profitable year since 1980.
Sealink UK The MANX VIKING's overhaul was prolonged by an alternator fault and she did not leave the Mersey to resume service until 10 January.

MISCELLANY

'Trip Out' readers have been invited to join one of the European trips organised by 'Waterways World': a 10-day trip to the Göta Canal in Sweden in June and a Dutch cruise in September. Further details can be supplied to anyone interested.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 5 February 1984

# TRIP OUT

**March 1984**

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THAMES

The Paddle Steamer Preservation Society's KINGSWEAR CASTLE will be making 2-hour cruises on the Medway at Easter. Capacity is limited to 12 passengers and a fare of about £ll is being charged. Further trips, including a visit to London, are being planned for the summer.

Woods River Services Services from Charing Cross have been suspended since December and the SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE and SIR THOMAS MORE seem to have been idle so far this year.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The ST CATHERINE has gone to Chatham for her first annual refit and arrived there on 20 February.

Blue Funnel Cruises The new vessel, to be named LEISURE SCENE, has a restaurant and lounge 70 ft by 25 ft on the lower deck, and on the upper deck, an enclosed dancing area forward and an open deck aft. She will run with the two other SCENEs and the PRINCESSA which is being promoted as a 60-year-old vessel with 'old world' charm. A weekly day cruise from Southsea will visit sites associated with the "D-Day" invasion.

Southern Coastcrafts This summer, the HYTHE HOTSPUR will offer morning and afternoon round trips from Southampton and Hythe to Ryde, with a 1½-hour afternoon cruise from Hythe around Southampton Docks. A few Ryde trips were offered experimentally last season and were a success.

Hurst Castle Ferry & Cruises The SOLENT ROSE and WIGHT ROSE are being used to tow barges between Keyhaven and the castle where sea defence works are being carried out.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK is offering a day trip to Guernsey on 5 May, leaving Weymouth at 0830 and arriving back at 2230, with five hours ashore. Tickets are £16. A similar trip on 19 May is a charter by Broadwey School Parent-Teacher Association. The EARL GRANVILLE was at Chatham from 7 to 19 February for her annual refit.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Western Lady Ferry Service One of the two Fairmile conversions has been offered for sale by brokers for £50 000.

Philip & Son, Dartmouth The guide cables snapped in a gale on 8 February and the ferry drifted downriver. The passengers were taken off by boat and the craft was eventually taken in tow. The service was suspended for a few weeks.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Potteries Canal Cruising Co The SARAH SIDDONS has been advertised for sale. She ran originally on the Brecon & Abergavenny Canal and has been with her present owners for two seasons.

NORTH WEST

Huddersfield Canal Society will be running trips on the canal from Uppermill near Oldham this summer. A 70-ft double-ended narrow boat seating 48 has been bought by Unicorn Marine from the Severn & Canal Carrying Co who intended running her on the Coombe Hill Canal; she will be leased to the Society and renamed BENJAMIN OUTRAM.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The 1983 annual report states that the number of staying visitors carried was the same as in 1982; a substantial increase on the Irish routes was balanced by reductions from other ports. The number of day trippers fell by 18 000 following the withdrawal of the MANXMAN and closure of the Llandudno service. Plans have been prepared for a new car ferry but the lowest tender received is over £20 million.

MISCELLANY

The owners of the MANXMAN announced in February that she would be moved to Liverpool from Preston where she has not been profitable. However, new financial backing was agreed on 15 February and she is to stay at Preston under the ownership of a new company, Manxman (1984) Ltd.

On the other side of the English Channel, the VALENÇAY is making some day cruises between Dieppe and Rouen in May and June. Fares start at Fr. 350. Readers interested should send a stamped addressed envelope for details.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 March 1984

# TRIP OUT

**April 1984**

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Sealink UK  Ships have been returning from refit without the British Rail emblem on their funnels. At the end of March, a new colour scheme was announced - white hull and dark blue funnels with a new emblem in yellow. A prospectus has been sent to twelve potential buyers of Sealink UK and the business is expected to be in private hands by the end of the year.

Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY's visit to the Thames and South Coast has been postponed till September and she will stay in Scotland until 18 May when Bristol Channel sailings begin. She continues there till 26 June, apart from 2 and 3 June when she visits Plymouth. She sails on the south coast from 25 August to 7 September, then on the Thames from 8 to 16 September. A full timetable has been published.

## THAMES

Greenwich Pleasure Craft  Six vessels of the bankrupt company (all except the ELIZABETHAN and PRINCESS MARINA) were advertised for sale in March by shipbrokers. In the first week of April, the CHEVENING, PRIDE OF GREENWICH and SYDNEY HULL left the Charing Cross moorings where they have been laid-up for the past six months.

London Launches, Westminster  The ZODIAC resumed cruises to the Flood Barrier in March. The fare for the cruise is now £3. From 12 May, trips will land at Woolwich where there is an exhibition and viewing gallery.

## SOUTH COAST

Blue Funnel Cruises  The new LEISURE SCENE will now not be completed until the end of the summer and it appears that only three vessels will be used this season. The delay has been agreed so the builders can give priority to refit work for the Ministry of Defence.

M J Rayment, Cowes  The JENNY R, the first of two new glass fibre vessels, was launched at Bembridge on 19 February by Mrs Rayment. The vessel is 45-ft long and will carry 90 passengers at up to 14 knots.

Croson  Sailings will be similar to last year's except that the evening cruise will run from Poole Quay instead of Bournemouth on some days. The POOLE BELLE is currently being fitted with heating for possible winter charter work; if this is successful, a new vessel may be built to replace the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Brittany Ferries are planning to use the PENN AR BED for a service to Guernsey and Jersey from Portsmouth. Sailings may start this summer.

Vedettes Blanches et Vertes  The BELLE DE JERSEY has been sold to other French owners and renamed DUC DE BELLE-ISLE. She began running from St-Malo and Granville to Jersey in 1972 after being bought from Germany, but was replaced by the Westamaran TRIDENT last year. This summer, the TRIDENT's sailings from St-Malo to Jersey will be extended once a week to Sark and Guernsey.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Waterways Holidays, Weedon The business has been taken over from Mr D Edwards by Mr P H Gardner; the CAPTAIN PUGWASH has been renamed SAUCY SUE.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The ships are to have the company name painted in 8-ft high letters on the their sides. The MONA'S QUEEN is to take part in a "cavalcade of shipping" on the Mersey on 2 May to mark the opening of the International Garden Festival at Liverpool.

MISCELLANY

The National Trust's 1983 visiting figures show the following totals for islands in its care: St Michael's Mount 142,000 (163,000 in 1982); Brownsea 101,000 (119,000); Farne Islands 36,000 (35,000).

The former Isle of Wight and Humber ferry FARRINGFORD, laid up at Hull since being bought by Western Ferries, has been resold to Havelet International of Guernsey; their interest is probably speculative and she is likely to be resold.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 8 April 1984

Sealink UK In 1983, there was a pre-tax profit of £4.1 million compared with a loss of £6.4 million in 1982. Turnover was £264.8 million (£232.3 million).

EAST ANGLIA

Orwell & Harwich Navigation Co European Ferries, who took over the business in October 1979, have announced that it is to be sold.

THAMES

Sargent Bros (Thames), Woolwich, will be offering half-hourly cruises through the Flood Barrier from 12 May.

Meridian Line Cruises The SWANAGE QUEEN, previously owned by a partnership of Barnard and John, was bought by Mrs John last year and a new company, J V John & B John Ltd, was formed. Following a major refit last winter, the ship has a white hull; it was formerly blue. Short public cruises from Greenwich to the Flood Barrier are being offered at weekends.

Catamaran Cruisers have bought the CHEVENING, PRIDE OF GREENWICH and SYDNEY HULL from the liquidators of Greenwich Pleasure Craft and, through the associated company River Ride Ltd, began services from Charing Cross at Easter. Boats leave Charing Cross every half hour from 1000 to 1630 and call at the Festival Pier 5 minutes later. Trips at 1000, 1200, 1400 and 1600 are by Woods' SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE or SIR THOMAS MORE and go direct to Greenwich with an audio-visual commentary (fare £3 return); other trips go to both the Tower and Greenwich (fare £2.40 return).

F & B Boat Co, Kingston, now own the PRINCESS MARINA from the Greenwich Pleasure Craft fleet and have rebuilt her to have more enclosed accommodation. She was originally the BRIT at Great Yarmouth and later ran at Bridlington and Whitby before coming to London in the 1950s.

French Brothers, Runnymede The PRINCESS MARY has been sold to a firm at Leeds. The fleet this season will consist of the HURLEY, LADY MARGARET ANNE and THE NEW PRINCESS OF WALES. The NUNEHAM is laid-up at Runnymede.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The CAMBER QUEEN has been sold to Transado for service from Setubal to Troia in Portugal. The FISHBOURNE and FRESHWATER have been sold to Pounds of Havant apparently for resale. The FISHBOURNE arrived at Chatham on 13 April for refit.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

A Channel Islands firm, Huelin Renouf (Shipping Services), is considering running a car ferry service from Portsmouth but it now seems unlikely that Brittany Ferries will be involved as the PENN AR BED has been sold for service between Sweden and Norway.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY is due to begin Bristol Channel sailings on 18 May and stays till 26 June. She is away from 1 to 4 June, with a charter from Plymouth on the 2nd (for the start of the single-handed transatlantic yacht race) and a public trip from Plymouth to Falmouth and the Lizard on the 3rd.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Montgomery Canal Cruises The business has been advertised for sale for £13 500.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE will be running services from Liverpool and Woodside to the International Garden Festival at Otterspool this summer; sailing times will vary daily according to tides.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE and the two motorships were in service at Easter; the MONA'S QUEEN was docked at Birkenhead on 25 April.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 May 1984

# TRIP OUT

**June 1984**

Sealink UK The Government is refusing to allow either European Ferries or P & O to bid for Sealink UK. There are at least four potential buyers: Trafalgar House, Sea Containers, Ellerman and the Sealink Consortium. The Seamen's union held a 48-hour strike to protest against the sale on 30-31 May; Sealink UK's Channel Island service was affected but the Isle of Wight ferries, which have NUR crews, were not.

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY began her Bristol Channel sailings on 18 May. She was chartered by 'The Observer' on 2 June to follow the start of the transatlantic yacht race at Plymouth and also offered two public trips from Plymouth and made her first calls at Falmouth.

## NORTH EAST

Mirfield Boatyard were the buyers of the PRINCESS MARY from Runnymede. She arrived by road on 11 April and was craned into the Calder & Hebble Navigation. She will operate a "waterbus" service to Brighouse in conjunction with West Yorkshire County Council and do charter work.

## THAMES

S Cardy, Strood, bought the THAMES QUEEN from A E Collier of Richmond last winter and intends to run trips to Southend.

Meridian Line Cruises Public day trips to Southend are being offered on 8 July and 5 August, leaving Greenwich at 1000 and arriving back at 2200. Fare £7; advance booking is recommended.

Greenwich Pleasure Craft The CHAY BLYTH and ELTHAM have been sold and will be running trips from Greenwich to the Flood Barrier. The ELIZABETHAN has also been handed over to new owners in London, leaving only the VENUS laid-up at Charing Cross.

Turk Launches, Kingston Public trips from Hampton Court and Kingston to Richmond were advertised to begin on 24 May. Three trips a day use a new pontoon downstream of Richmond Bridge.

French Brothers, Runnymede The LUCY FISHER, a replica African sternwheel vessel built in 1982 for the film "Greystoke", has been bought and will be used for short trips carrying 56 passengers.

Kennet Marine Services, Reading, have introduced the MELODY K, a wide-beam canal style boat, on charter work.

Better Boating Co, Abingdon The ABINGDON BELLE has been advertised for sale with her present business.

British Waterways Board (Regent's Canal) The waterbus service to the Zoo is now operated by the London Waterbus Co who are running the GARDENIA and PERSEUS between Little Venice, the Zoo and Camden Lock.

## SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The FISHBOURNE was renamed KYPROS I during her refit at Chatham and left on 5 May for Cyprus.

Hurst Castle Ferry & Cruises The ISLAND ROSE is being replaced by a new 43-ft steel vessel of the same name which was launched on 18 May.

Croson The POOLE BELLE began running local cruises on 6 May. From 27 May, she was replaced by the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE, and the POOLE BELLE began the Isle of Wight service.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The ILE DE SERK has been sold and left Guernsey on 4 May for Madeira. She made her final trip to Sark on 20 November and was subsequently offered for sale for £25,000.

Herm Seaway Marine The ISLAND QUEEN and LADY DOROTHY have both been advertised for sale.

Vedettes Blanches The SOLIDOR struck a rock whilst sailing from Jersey to St-Malo on 28 April and repairs were expected to take 3-4 weeks.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN opened her third season at Torquay as scheduled on 22 May. She is also offering a Sunday afternoon cruise to the River Dart and a coastal day cruise on Wednesdays.

C J Wilson, Torquay The PRIDE OF THE BAY has been advertised for sale by her owner, but is running as usual this season.

Paignton Pier Co After a break of at least three years, trips from the pier have been revived with the DEVON PRINCESS previously operated by Mr M D Barrow. There are trips to the River Dart, with landings at Dartmouth or at Kingswear to connect with a steam train to Paignton.

Millbrook Steamboat & Trading Co The season's only public trip to Morwellham is on 10 June and trips to Weir Head are offered on 11 June and 26 August; there are Calstock trips on many dates until 8 September. The afternoon River Yealm cruise is on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 30 June to 16 September. The QUEEN BOADICEA was broken up last winter as her hull was beyond repair and the SOUTHERN BELLE has been transferred from Dart Pleasure Craft.

G H & W G Pill, Falmouth The TUDOR PRINCE was at Plymouth on 2 June for the start of the transatlantic yacht race.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The POLAR BEAR's mainland port has been switched from Ilfracombe to Bideford.

NORTH WEST

Middlewich Narrowboats The ASTEROPE was gutted by fire during the night of 23 April. It is not known whether she is to be repaired.

The Wine Barge, Maghull The former SHOWBOAT of Wigan has been operating under this name on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal since November 1982.

MISCELLANY

The derelict remains of the paddle steamer MEDWAY QUEEN were moved from the Isle of Wight to the Medway in April. The Medway Queen Preservation and Restoration Trust wants to raise up to £1 million to rebuild her.

The remains of the KING GEORGE V were being broken up at Cardiff in May.

 © G P Hamer 5 June 1984

# TRIP OUT

**July 1984**

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NORTH EAST

Cleveland Cruising was formed last winter by three unemployed men in Middlesbrough. A vessel has been bought and renamed TEES DISCOVERER to offer trips on the Tees.

EAST ANGLIA

C J Lovewell, Norwich, is now operating a third vessel named PRINCE EDWARD.

Southern Coastcrafts, Great Yarmouth, are not operating any excursions this season and the BROADLAND BELLE has presumably been sold. Broads cruises are still offered from Yarmouth by Mr Knight's GOLDEN GALLEON and by Pleasure Steamers.

THAMES AND KENT

Sailings from Westminster to Hampton Court are operating to a fixed pattern this season. The vessels involved are the COCKNEY SPARROW (1000 from Westminster), KINGWOOD (1030), CONNAUGHT (1100) and FORDSON (1200); departures from Hampton Court are five hours later in each case. The HENLEY, THE KING and PRINCESS FREDA sail from Westminster to Kew only, while the KINGSTON has not yet been commissioned.

Lea Valley Narrow Boat Co, Ware A wide-beam vessel built last year for TV-AM and used for entertaining VIPs has been bought and will be refitted for passenger work. The 70-ft vessel was named TV-AM, but will enter service at Ware later this summer as the JONAS FOSBROKE.

S Cardy, Strood Under the name 'Invicta Line Cruises', the THAMES QUEEN offers trips to Southend on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, leaving Strood at 0900 and 1515. The day return fare is £5.95.

R Newing, Grove Ferry Trips are being operated on the River Stour between Grove Ferry and Sandwich, seemingly mainly for coach parties.

SOUTH COAST

J Puttnam, Arundel The vessel being used for trips on the River Arun is the PRIDE OF TEST, which in the past has run from Southampton, Reading and Hampton Court.

Blue Funnel Cruises The new owners of the SOLENT QUEEN, Messrs L Hayden and P Scott of Ireland, have applied to rename her CRYSTAL ROSE.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK Some sailings were cancelled on 13-14 June when seamen went on strike over the planned sale of Sealink UK.

Vedettes Blanches The SOLIDOR resumed service after repairs on 31 May. As a replacement, the car ferry EMSLAND (1977, 1561 grt) was chartered from AG "Ems" of Emden.

Trident Charter Co The new catamaran HERM TRIDENT IV is now in service between Guernsey and Herm. She cost £200 000 to build and has a bar for use during evening cruises.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Droitwich Canals Trust The first passenger trip on the restored section of canal was made on 20 May; the LADY SABRINA's name has been amended to SABRINA.

MISCELLANY

The former Isle of Wight and Humber ferry FARRINGFORD was sold for scrap at Hull in March.

The former Red Funnel MEDINA has opened as a floating restaurant at Canary Wharf in the West India Docks, London. This is her fourth location in this country as she has been used at Lymington, Ramsgate and Brighton.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 July 1984

# TRIP OUT

**August 1984**

On 7 August 1974, exactly ten years ago, the first trial issue of this newssheet was typed. On the Thames, the TOWER BELLE and ST GERRANS were for sale; on the South Coast the SOUTHSEA QUEEN and SOLENT SCENE were new; England and Wales still had two Class III excursion ships, the BALMORAL and BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN; the WAVERLEY was laid-up. Much has changed since then and though 'Trip Out may not be able to claim any responsibilty for what has happened, this newssheet has brought one achievement: the guide to passenger boat services has become known as a source of information which ten years ago could not be found in a single publication. The present range of 'Trip Out' publications would not have been possible without the support of the people who have subscribed to, and supplied information for, this newssheet. To all of you, I am deeply grateful for your support.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Sealink UK The Government announced on 18 July that the British Rail subsidiary had been sold to Sea Containers for £66 million. Control was transferred on 27 July after the money had been paid, and Sealink UK became a subsidiary of British Ferries Ltd which had been formed by Sea Containers. Amongst the new owners' suggested plans are the ordering of new Isle of Wight ships, the end of passenger services from Portsmouth to the Channel Islands with the emphasis on daytime sailings from Weymouth, and the transfer of one ship to the Mediterranean for a service from Venice to Greece.

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY sails in the Isle of Wight and Bournemouth area from 25 August to 6 September, then visits Worthing and Eastbourne on the 7th, before a Thames visit which extends from 8 to 16 September.

## THAMES AND KENT

S Cardy, Strood The THAMES QUEEN is now advertised to sail on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with a day trip from Strood to Southend and an afternoon trip from Southend with time ashore at Rochester (Ship Pier).

Hire Cruisers (Maidstone) The KENTISH LADY now lands at Allington Castle on her hourly weekend trips from Maidstone.

Turk Launches, Kingston There are up to six trips a day from Kingston to the new landing stage at Richmond, and sailings every 45 mins between Hampton Court and Kingston, some of these continuing to Richmond. The WINDSOR TWO has been brought back into service for public trips after being laid-up. Last year's Sunday afternoon cruise to Shepperton is not being offered this season.

## SOUTH COAST

The Spit Sand Fort off Southsea has been opened to the public this summer and landing trips are being offered from Southsea by the Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co, from Southsea and Ryde by Blue Funnel Cruises and from Cowes by Mr Rayment.

Blue Funnel Cruises have ceased operating excursions from Ryde to Cherbourg in conjunction with Townsend Thoresen, following the change in "no passport" regulations; the last trip was advertised for 31 July.

Croson The evening cruise from Bournemouth on Suns, Tues and Thurs is operated by the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE while the POOLE BELLE does the cruise from Poole on Mons, Weds and Fris. New booking agents in Poole use the name "Blue Boats" and to promote charter business, invited guests were given a free cruise in the POOLE BELLE on 1 June. She acted as Admiral's barge on 14 July for the ceremony of beating the bounds of Poole Harbour.
Others A 20-passenger mock Mississippi vessel named QUEEN OF THE LAKE has begun operating on Poole Park Lake.

CHANNEL ISLANDS
Service Maritime de Carteret The PECONIC QUEEN is now working with this fleet together with the AIGRETTE V. There are regular services from Portbail to Gorey, from Carteret to Gorey and St Peter Port and from Cherbourg to St Peter Port. Trips from Cherbourg to Alderney have been introduced this year and were scheduled for 7 and 20 July, and 6 and 21 August.

WEST OF ENGLAND
Torbay Seaways hope to start a car ferry service to Guernsey and Jersey next year following a decision by Torbay Borough Council on 17 July to agree to the building of a ramp at Torquay's Haldon Pier provided it is at no cost to the Council. The company's cargo vessel ONTIC has been sailing regularly to Jersey this summer.
Western Lady Ferry Service The PRIDE OF THE DART and WESTERN LADY IV have been advertised for sale and it is the intention to sell one or the other.
R J Elworthy, Plymouth The DARTHULA II has been sold and is now operating at Portsmouth. She was built for service on Loch Etive and then ran on the Thames at Dagenham before coming to Plymouth in 1981.

MISCELLANY
The former GSN Thames excursion vessel QUEEN OF THE CHANNEL is apparently being broken up in Greece which has been her home since 1968. Latterly named LETO, she had been laid-up for about three years.
The LIBERTY OF THE SOUTH SEAS, a one-time Norwegian coastal passenger ship of 267 grt, has recently arrived at a mooring in the Medway off Strood. Her present owners and their intentions for the ship are unknown.
The TAY QUEEN (ex BRIDLINGTON QUEEN) called at Great Yarmouth in the second half of July, presumably en route to new owners.

# TRIP OUT

**September 1984**

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THAMES AND KENT

D Rose, Rochester  The QUEEN OF KENT resumed service on 25 August and sails daily from Strood at 1445, Rochester 1500 and Gillingham 1530, for a cruise on the Medway. There are evening cruises from Rochester on Weds, Fris and Sats. She is not sailing to Southend this year.

R Newing, Grove Ferry  The vessel being used on the River Stour (see July issue) is the RENEROY IV, a 56-passenger former tender from the QE2. Public trips are offered to "Theobolds Barn to taste the cyder."

SOUTH COAST

M G Pearce, Portsmouth, is the new owner of the DARTHULA II from Plymouth. She runs cruises from Portsmouth Hard with the SOUTHSEA BELLE and the vessels of H A Butcher and J Butcher & Sons. The trips call at the submarine museum at Gosport.

Needles Pleasure Cruises  The YARMOUTH ROSE grounded on rocks off the Needles at 1420 on 27 August, whilst trying to help a dinghy in trouble. Fifty passengers were taken off by helicopter and inflatable lifeboat. The YARMOUTH ROSE was subsequently refloated by the tide.

Boscombe Sea Cruises  The TAY QUEEN (ex BRIDLINGTON QUEEN) has been bought jointly with Blue Funnel Cruises and, after visting Southampton, she entered service on 5 August under the name BRITON QUEEN. There have been no other trips from Boscombe this season so the TERESA OF SARK has presumably been sold. Trips to the Isle of Wight are offered on Tues, Weds and Fris, with local cruises on other days (except Sats); she does not offer trips to Brownsea Island.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole)  A vessel named MAID OF BROWNSEA has joined the fleet this year.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Brittany Ferries in conjunction with Huelin Renouf of Jersey, intend to start a service from Portsmouth next year. Brittany Ferries will provide a ship which will be transferred to British registry.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co  The ILE DE SERK was sold to a Mr Lawrence for service between Dominica and Guadaloupe in the Caribbean.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways have bought the CLANSMAN from Caledonian MacBrayne to replace the DEVONIUN next season. She left Greenock on the afternoon of 14 August, sailing on one engine, and called off Torquay on the 17th before going to a mooring off Kingswear. The DEVONIUN is expected to make her last trip on 29 September and will then be sold.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

G Wilkes, Ironbridge, has introduced trips on the upper Severn with a new 35-ft 26-passenger boat named KATHRYN.

Dartline Cruisers, Tardebigge, began running the MIDLANDER in July. She was built for Kenrick Marine in 1979 and last operated at Uxbridge. She now offers charter trips on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal, with a public trip on Sunday afternoons.
Earlswood Marine Services The narrow boat CEPHEUS has been advertised for sale for £9950. She has been out of commission and does not have a current passenger certificate.
Swan Line Cruisers, Fradley The FRADLEY SWAN has been offered for sale for £12 000 plus vat. She began running for her present owners in 1981.

NORTH WEST

Bithells Boats, Chester The RAGLAN has been offered for sale for £6500 and is apparently to be replaced by a new vessel.
Sealink UK Dredging was necessary in August to enable the vessels to continue operating while the water level in Windermere was low owing to the drought.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Between 1 May and 29 July, 111,271 passengers were carried on the Company's five routes, a fall of 13% compared with the same period of 1983. Financial results for the first half of the year were worse than 1983.

MISCELLANY

The MANXMAN is to be offered for sale following losses in her role as a museum at Preston; an American firm is said to be interested in buying her and taking her to Florida.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 September 1984

# TRIP OUT

**October 1984**

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY made an additional trip from Southend to London on 17 September, to compensate for sailings cancelled by boiler trouble on the 11th. She returned to Scotland via the east coast.

THAMES AND KENT

S Cardy, Strood, has bought the CLYDE from Mr W J Kennedy and she arrived in the Medway on 29 September. She was built as a tug and inspection launch for the Clyde, but has spent the past 11 years running from Portree. She is advertised to begin evening cruises from Strood on 16 October, while the THAMES QUEEN is making day and night trips for anglers.

D Rose, Rochester The QUEEN OF KENT was advertised to make a day trip to Faversham on 29 September, but owing to various delays passengers did not have any time ashore there.

Sealink UK is seeking a buyer for the Tilbury ferry service which has been unprofitable for the past 20 years. Last year the EDITH carried 230 000 passengers. First option will be given to the ferry manager, Mr Alfred Gates, and his staff.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Devizes The CHARLOTTE DUNDAS II is reported to be for sale, having been found unsuitable for the shallow canal; she is to be replaced by a smaller vessel.

SOUTH COAST

Boscombe Sea Cruises The TERESA OF SARK was sold to someone at Bridlington after just one season on the south coast. Her replacement, the BRIDLINGTON QUEEN, has been advertised for sale again already by the owner, Mr J H Megoran, for £17 900.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) Two of the firm's smaller boats are being offered for sale; one has been replaced this year by the MAID OF BROWNSEA.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK Present plans for the CI services involve the fitting of the AILSA PRINCESS and another ship with high quality overnight accommodation for Portsmouth sailings, with daylight crossings to Cherbourg from Portsmouth and from the islands. The Weymouth service would have daylight crossings only. The MANX VIKING will run the summer service from Weymouth to Cherbourg.

Condor has ordered a new hydrofoil from the Rodriquez yard at Messina. It will be 102 ft long and will carry 200 passengers at up to 36 knots. Condor has not yet decided whether it will replace one of the existing craft or enable a three-craft service to be operated when it enters service next May.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The proposed use of the CLANSMAN continues to arouse local controversy. Torbay Council's Works & Harbours Committee voted against the plan on 20 September, claiming the ship was too big and would spoil the character of the harbour. The final decision lies with the full council and Torbay Seaways' owner is still optimistic that the service can start. The CLANSMAN was being refitted by Philip & Son in September.

E & T J Cudd, Brixham The GLADIA has been advertised for sale.

NORTH WEST

Middlewich Narrowboats The ASTEROPE, damaged by fire in April, is not being repaired and has been offered for sale for £9000.

Sealink UK The three Windermere vessels carried 615 000 passengers this year, compared with 570 000 in 1983.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANX MAID began her winter lay-up at Birkenhead on 10 September and was joined by the BEN-MY-CHREE on the 19th.

MISCELLANY

The NEW ROSELAND, sold by Torbay Seaways in 1983, is now on the market again in Scotland; she is currently laid-up at Troon.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 10 October 1984

# TRIP OUT

**November 1984**

The 1984 summer season will be remembered for the long spell of hot sunny weather; our excursion operators should be well pleased with their takings. As in previous years, 'Trip Out' this month presents a list of the ten largest excursion fleets in the UK, based on the vessels operating in the previous season. Figures in brackets are last year's positions.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 2(6) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1093 |
| 3(2) | Woods River Services | 1002 |
| 4(3) | George Wheeler | 714 |
| 5(5) | Waverley Excursions | 693 |
| 6(7) | Sealink (Windermere) | 622 |
| 7(8) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 455 |
| 8(9) | Salter Bros | 453 |
| 9(10) | Millbrook/ Dart P C | 419 |
| 10(-) | Blue Funnel Cruises | 314 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| =1(9) | Catamaran Cruisers | 2063 |
| =1(2) | Salter Bros | 2063 |
| 3(1) | Millbrook/ Dart P C | 2022 |
| 4(4) | Sealink (Windermere) | 1840 |
| 5(5) | George Wheeler | 1662 |
| 6(6) | Woods River Services | 1347 |
| 7(7) | Waverley Excursions | 1260 |
| 8(8) | Thames Pleasure Craft | 1256 |
| 9(10) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1203 |
| 10(-) | Broads Tours | 1140 |

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THAMES

Westminster Passenger Services Association The Tower and Greenwich services reverted to the winter schedule on 29 October; the six boats at present in service are the CONNAUGHT, ELEANOR ROSE, HOLLYWOOD, TIDEWAY, TIDEWAY VENTURE and VISCOUNTESS. The last upriver trips were made on 21 October when the CONNAUGHT went to Kew.

SOUTH COAST

Croson The POOLE BELLE finished her season at the end of September, and the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE continued in October, with an IoW trip on Wednesdays and local trips on other days. The POOLE BELLE will be available for charter throughout the winter.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co Both chains broke during a gale on the night of 24 October and 22 passengers and their vehicles were stranded aboard the floating bridge. The passengers were taken off after one hour and the ferry was towed by two local tugs to Poole where she will be out of action for three weeks (though this includes her normal annual overhaul).

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The EARL GODWIN struck rocks at St Helier on the evening of 15 October in fog; after temporary repairs she left on the 23rd for Holyhead. The fare for the new luxury overnight service from Portsmouth has been announced as £59 single inclusive of dinner, cabin berth and breakfast. The EARL GRANVILLE and EARL WILLIAM are expected to undergo refits costing £5 million for this service.

WEST OF ENGLAND

A Stuart, Exmouth The ORCOMBE has been advertised for sale for £15 000. She has operated on the Starcross ferry for 30 years.

Torbay Seaways Plans to build a vehicle loading ramp have now been rejected by Torbay Borough Council, and the company may have to operate from another port, or load cars by crane. The DEVONIUN has been sold to Mr C Marrow for service from Kirkwall, Orkney, to Scalloway, Shetland. Her intended new name is SYLLINGAR, an old Norse name for the Isles of Scilly. Mr Marrow runs local services from Kirkwall as Wide Firth Ferry, but the Shetland service will use the name Norse Atlantic Ferries.

Dart Pleasure Craft During a visit to Dartmouth on 25 October, President Mitterrand and his wife made a cruise in the MY QUEEN.

G H & W G Pill, Falmouth The SKYLARK II and WESTMINSTER BELLE are on the market again, for £5600 and £16 500, respectively; they have both been offered before over the past three years.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The service will be suspended for the ship's overhaul from 10 to 28 November; sailings will then be twice-weekly in December.

## MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Bosworth Field Boat Trips The KING RICHARD III has been advertised for sale for £24 000 + VAT.

## NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE claims there has been a 140% increase in traffic on the ferries this year thanks to the Garden Festival and other events.

Sealink UK The TERN will be used for year-round charter work and the SWIFT, laid-up for the past three seasons, will return to regular service in 1985.

## IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The TAMIRA has been acquired from Maltese owners and is to be renamed MONA'S ISLE before entering service next year. Built in 1966 as Townsend's FREE ENTERPRISE III, she had been laid up for over two years before being sold in August of this year, arriving in Malta on 2 September. The two steam car ferries, the BEN-MY-CHREE and MANX MAID, are expected to be sold.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 November 1984

# TRIP OUT

**December 1984**

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EAST ANGLIA

Orwell & Harwich Navigation Co  The firm's future is still in doubt as the parent company, European Ferries, has not found a buyer. Mr Harry Rodger, who had intended taking over the business, has withdrawn because Trinity House will not grant a long-term lease for the use of the landing stage at Harwich.

THAMES

Thames Launches  The ROYAL PRINCESS has had her port of registry changed from London to Southampton, to allow the new P & 0 cruise ship ROYAL PRINCESS to be registered in London.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Devizes  The CHARLOTTE DUNDAS II has been advertised for sale for £17 000.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK  The ST HELEN has gone to Chatham for her annual refit and arrived there on 18 November. The CAMBER QUEEN has been renamed MIRA TROIA by her new owners in Portugal.

R G N Woodford, Newport, began running cruises down the River Medina last season using the SKYLARK, previously owned by Mr L R Barter of Southampton.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co  The Sandbanks ferry resumed on 21 November after a break of four weeks.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

The services from Carteret, Portbail and Cherbourg carried a total of 100 000 passengers during the season which ended on 5 November; five ships were involved - the AIGRETTE V, KEVRENN, LES TROIS LEOPARDS, PECONIC QUEEN and PEGASUS.

Sealink UK  The new overnight service from Portsmouth starts on 31 March; there are nightly sailings in each direction but outside the peak season (29 June to 8 Sep), there is no Saturday departure from Portsmouth or Sunday sailing from the Islands. Weymouth sailings run only by day from 30 March, with a round trip from Jersey and Guernsey daily (except that there is no sailing from Weymouth on Sats or from Jersey on Suns). Between 24 May and 15 September, two ships are used, one from Guernsey at 0715 every day to Weymouth then Jersey and Guernsey, and the other from Jersey at 0730 to Weymouth then Guernsey and Jersey. The AILSA PRINCESS will be renamed EARL HAROLD for this service.

Jersey Ferries, a new firm based at Carteret, opened a service to St Helier last summer using the KEVRENN on charter from Vedettes Armoricaines. They carried 10 000 passengers.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The schedule planned for the CLANSMAN extends from 6 April to 28 September; on Saturdays and Wednesdays she leaves at 0000 and goes overnight to Guernsey and Jersey, returning in the evening; on Mondays there is a day trip to Alderney; on Thursdays from 20 June to 19 September there is a Guernsey day trip and in these weeks the Wednesday trip goes direct to Jersey. Passenger fares would be £23 single and £45 return. However, following the local council's refusal to allow a car ferry ramp to be built at Torquay, the company has claimed it may sell the CLANSMAN and operate a hydrofoil instead.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Wolverhampton Passenger Boat Services Last Summer the business was taken over by S Bate and J Rowbotham from the previous owners, M J & J C A Lichfield. The STAFFORD continues to operate as before and the address and telephone number are unchanged.

NORTH WEST

Sealink UK The Windermere service is to be transferred to SeaCo, an associated company of Sea Containers which runs hotels and the Venice Simplon Orient Express.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 December 1984

# TRIP OUT

**January 1985**

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THAMES

Woods River Services  The SIR THOMAS MORE has been advertised for sale. She ran cruises from Tower Pier in 1982 and 1983, but last season was based at Charing Cross with her sister SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE.

Lea Valley Narrow Boat Co  The wide-beam JONAS FOSBROOKE, bought from TV-am, entered service in November and can carry 70 passengers. Full catering facilities are offered.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK  The first of three catamarans for the Ryde service is apparently being built by Marinteknik of Öregrund, Sweden. The craft is due next summer and will carry 350 passengers at up to 30 knots. The ST HELEN left Chatham on 7 December to return to Portsmouth after her refit.

Isle of Wight County Council  The Cowes floating bridge will be refitted between mid-March and mid-April, and the Council is inviting tenders for the operation of a replacement passenger boat service during this period.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK  The contract for the conversion of the EARL GRANVILLE and EARL WILLIAM, worth £3 million, has gone to the yard at Aalborg in Denmark. Both ships will go there later this month and are due to return by 29 March to open the luxury overnight service from Portsmouth.

Channel Island Ferries, the new service owned by Brittany Ferries and Huelin-Renouf, will be operated by the BENODET which will be renamed CORBIERE; she will retain Bahamian registry but will have a British crew. From 29 March, she will sail daily except Sundays from Portsmouth at 1000 to Jersey (1745-1930) and Guernsey (2115-2215), arriving back at Portsmouth at 0815; from 16 June to 15 September there are Sunday sailings as well. Single passenger fares range from £25 to £30.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways  The DEVONIUN was delivered to her new owners in Orkney in November. The company plans to start hydrofoil services on 20 April, with a claimed crossing time of 2 hrs 10 mins to Guernsey and 3 hours to Jersey.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

B & M Charters  The business has been advertised for sale for £18 000. The OWAIN GLYNDWR OF LLANGATTOCK has run trips for parties on the canal in the Abergavenny area since 1971.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

The Boat People, Leicester, run the DUKE OF BRIDGEWATER, formerly owned by Mr N Ainley (Just Boats) of Crick. Charter trips are offered all year, with public trips on summer Sundays and Bank Holidays.

S Bark, Lincoln  The 28-passenger BRAYFORD BANKS runs public and charter trips on the River Witham and Fossdyke Navigation.

NORTH WEST

H Williams, Caernarfon, has retired owing to ill health and the SNOWDON QUEEN was taken over by new owners in September.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The newly-acquired MONA'S ISLE arrived at Glasgow from Malta on 14 December to begin her refit. A sharp rise in the price of the company's shares around Christmas led to speculation of a take-over bid, but the company has hinted that last year's results were bad and has spoken of a possible financial restructuring.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 8 January 1985

# TRIP OUT

**February 1985**

The major news from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company will sadden many. The saddest aspect, though, is the feeling that such a desperate measure would not have been needed if the company had adapted to changing circumstances years ago. Now it is Merseyside, already hard hit by the recession, which loses a shipping service, while travellers to the Isle of Man have their choice of services reduced.

Geoffrey Hamer

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EAST ANGLIA

D C Wells, Great Yarmouth, has advertised the GLENDA MARGARET for sale and would like to replace her with a fishing vessel.

THAMES

A new railway is being built along Southend Pier, and new trains should be running by 1986, replacing the old pier trains which last ran in 1978. The total cost is £800 000.

Woods River Services The SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE and SIR THOMAS MORE began a ten-week trial commuter service from Greenwich to Tower, Festival and Charing Cross on 21 January. Trips leave Greenwich at 0800 and 0855, but from 11 February, there will be only one trip, at 0815 from Greenwich and 1745 from Charing Cross. The GLC is providing up to £30 000 to subsidise the experiment.

French Brothers, Runnymede, are building an 85-ft vessel with a passenger capacity of 200; when she enters service later this year she will be the largest vessel in the fleet. The Hampton Court service runs from 5 May to 12 September, and a new service between Runnymede and Windsor will run twice-daily on Weds, Fris, Sats and Suns from 5 May to 27 October.

Salter Bros Services run from 12 May to 15 September and follow the same pattern as last year; additional high-season services run from 14 July to 1 September.

SOUTH COAST

Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co Trips to Cowes will run on Thursdays only this season.

Croson The POOLE BELLE offered a cruise around Poole Harbour on New Year's Day - apparently the company's first public trip in winter.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

A passenger service is expected to open this year to Guernsey from Flamanville which is between Carteret and Cherbourg. The quay, which was built to serve a nuclear power station, can be used at all states of the tide.

Sealink UK The EARL GRANVILLE and EARL WILLIAM are now at Aalborg for rebuilding and the services are being maintained by the AILSA PRINCESS and EARL GODWIN. The Portsmouth ferry terminal was blocked on 29 January as Townsend Thoresen crews protested against redundancies; Channel Island traffic was diverted to Weymouth for about four days.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The hydrofoil service is scheduled to run from 20 April to 27 October, with trips to Guernsey on Saturdays (two round trips in the peak season), Jersey on Sundays, Alderney on Mondays (17 June - 2 Sep), Jersey on Wednesdays (22 May - 11 Sep) and Guernsey on Thursdays (23 May - 12 Sep).

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III will run daily (except Sundays) from 29 March to 5 October. There is a double trip on Saturdays from 25 May to 31 August, and there are Sunday trips on 5 and 26 May, 9 and 23 June, 14 and 28 July, 4, 18 and 25 August, and 15 September.

Castle Bay Boat Co, Penzance The MISHANNA I has been offered for sale for £12 000.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

The Anglian Water Authority is inviting tenders for the running of cruises on Rutland Water, an artificial lake near Oakham in Leicestershire.

NORTH WEST

Colliery Narrow Boat Co, Northwich The BRACKLEY has been advertised for sale for £8750 + vat.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co An agreement with Sealink UK was announced on 1 February. Sealink UK will own 40% of the Steam Packet Co's increased stock and will charter the ANTRIM PRINCESS to the company to run with the MONA'S ISLE from Heysham. There will be no sailings from Liverpool, the company's main English port for the past 154 years, but the LADY OF MANN and MONA'S QUEEN will continue summer services from Fleetwood, Ardrossan, Dublin and Belfast. The company had not published its summer schedule and had advertised only a one-ship service until 30 March (0840 from Douglas and 1400 from Liverpool); the MONA'S QUEEN entered dry dock for refit at Birkenhead on 7 January.

MISCELLANY

Currently on the market in Scotland is the CORAL STAR III, previously at Paignton, but originally the POOLE BELLE at Bournemouth. She has operated at Cromarty since 1976.

The salvage company which last year transported the remains of the ps MEDWAY QUEEN to Kent is threatening to take possession of the wreck and sell it for scrap unless they are paid £27 000 which they are owed.

 © G P Hamer 3 February 1985

# TRIP OUT

**March 1985**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's 1985 timetable is now available from the company. After Easter trips on the Clyde, she makes her first trips to the Isle of Man, on 13 April from Garlieston and on the 14th from Silloth. There are schools cruises from Workington on 17 and 18 April then nine days based at Dublin (her first visit outside the UK), before she returns to Scotland. She is on the Bristol Channel between 24 May and 26 June, and returns to the south coast and Thames from 31 August to 22 September.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions is the name chosen by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society for the operation of the KINGSWEAR CASTLE which is expected to obtain Class V and VI certificates for this season. Mr John Megoran, who has run trips from Boscombe Pier for the past two years, will be the ship's manager and skipper. Public trips from Chatham and Strood are advertised to run from 24 May to 22 September, and include some sailings to Southend.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The Ryde service ran to a revised timetable between 7 January and 2 March to allow a car ferry to replace the BRADING and SOUTHSEA for overhaul. The summer schedules for the IoW routes are similar to last year's, except for the CUTHRED's extra Fishbourne sailings which are daily in July and August instead of being advertised for four days a week. One of the Lymington ferries will make a cruise on Wednesday afternoons from 3 July to 4 September.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Vedettes Blanches et Vertes The SOLIDOR was at Cherbourg for her annual refit from 6 January to 4 February. Between 5 May and 26 September, she will offer direct car ferry sailings from St-Malo to St Peter Port as well as St Helier. The company will introduce passenger services from Carteret to St Helier next season, in addition to services from St-Malo and Granville.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways After barely three months in South Devon, the CLANSMAN was resold to the Zammit concern of Malta who owned the TAMIRA (now MONA'S ISLE). The CLANSMAN passed Gibraltar on 6 December and arrived in Malta a few days later. Torbay Seaways continue to run the cargo ship ONTIC to the Channel Islands.

R H Wilby, Paignton The business, including the FAIR CLOUD, has been offered for sale for £30 000.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Sailings from 1 April are from Heysham at 0100, 1415 and 1700, and from Douglas at 0830, 1130 and 1945 daily; there are some additional services at Bank Holiday weekends and for major motorcycle races when all four ships will visit Heysham. Fleetwood sailings operate from 25 May to 5 September.

The company suffered a pre-tax loss of around £304 000 last year, compared with a profit of £395 000 in 1983. Some shareholders have objected to the closure of the Liverpool route, but the Manx parliament has approved it; the company will hold an extraordinary general meeting on 29 March. The BEN-MY-CHREE and MANX MAID are both reported to have been sold as static restaurants, to firms in the USA and Bristol respectively. The MONA'S QUEEN left Birkenhead after completing her refit on 28 February.

MISCELLANY

The former Isle of Wight ferry FISHBOURNE, which sailed for Cyprus last May as the KYPROS I, went to the Turkish part of the island where she was named KIBRIS I (the two names are respectively the Greek and Turkish names for Cyprus). On 5 February, she sank in a gale whilst moored overnight in Morphou Bay.

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Obituaries do not normally figure in this publication, but I feel moved to mark the passing of Mr Geoffrey Grimshaw of Dunoon, noted for many years as a thorough researcher into the history of coastal passenger ships. He wrote the classic reference book 'British Pleasure Steamers 1920-1939' and contributed articles and news items to many other publications, including this one.

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www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 March 1985

# TRIP OUT

**April 1985**

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NORTH EAST

J S & K Allan, Kielder Water  The EVA-MAY was destroyed by fire last summer and the owners are still seeking a replacement. She came to the lake in 1982 from Poole.

Hill's Boatyard, York  The PRINCESS MARGARET has been sold out of passenger service and has been replaced by the ABINGDON BELLE which has been renamed COUNTESS OF YORK.

EAST ANGLIA

J N Blake & Son, Norwich, have ceased trading after running trips from Norwich for 14 seasons and the REGAL LADY is laid-up at Norwich awaiting sale.

THAMES

Hire Cruisers (Maidstone) bought the BROADLAND BELLE from Southern Coastcrafts last autumn and she has been renamed KENTISH LADY II to replace the KENTISH LADY.

Catamaran Cruisers  During her refit in February and March, the PRIDE OF GREENWICH was renamed PRIDELA.

Woods River Services  The experimental commuter service from Greenwich to London is to continue until March 1986, with the GLC providing a grant of up to £93 000.

Tidal Cruisers have taken over the ROYAL PRINCESS from Thames Launches. The associated company on the Regent's Canal, Eastern City Canal Ferries, ceased trading last year and the CLAIREST has been sold, apparently for service on the Norfolk Broads.

Salter Bros  The STREATLEY has been advertised for sale for £45 000.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK  A new catamaran has not actually been ordered and the builders, Marinteknik, have accepted other orders so cannot deliver one this year.

Blue Funnel Cruises  The new LEISURE SCENE is due to be launched at Poole this month.

Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co has bought the CYRIL LOTTE from Mursell & Kemp (Sandown) and she will be renamed PORTSEA PRINCESS.

Croson  Both vessels were refitted in March. Summer sailings will be similar to last year's, but evening cruises will be offered nightly (except Sats) from Bournemouth, and on Tues and Thurs from Poole.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Channel Island Ferries  The BENODET was drydocked at Falmouth between 3 and 9 March when her name was changed to CORBIERE. After further refitting at St-Malo, she opened the service to Portsmouth on 28 March.

Sealink UK  The conversion of the EARL GRANVILLE and EARL WILLIAM has been delayed by industrial troubles in Denmark and the start of the new luxury service from Portsmouth has been postponed to 14 April.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways have bought the PT50-type hydrofoil SPRINGEREN from the Copenhagen to Malmö service and the craft is due to arrive in Torquay by Easter. The name will be changed to STAR CAPRICORN. It was built at Messina in 1967 and is of the same design as the CONDOR 1.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL, laid-up at Dundee since 1982, has been bought by people associated with the WAVERLEY and, after survey, sailed to Glasgow, arriving there on 26 March. The new owners intend to rebuild her if £300 000 can be raised and return her to service on the Bristol Channel in 1986.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Grebe Canal Cruises, Tring The GREBE has been sold for private use and is being replaced by a new wide-beam vessel, the MARSWORTH PRINCESS, which is being built at Wolverhampton.

Ernest Thomas (Walsall) All the assets of the business, including the trip boat MAVERICK, were due to be sold by auction on 21 March.

NORTH WEST

Sealink UK The service will in future be known as Windermere Lake Cruises. Contrary to earlier reports, the SWIFT will not be returning to service this season.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Last summer's passenger traffic was 7½% less than in 1983; the number of day excursionists to the island was 27 000, a fall of 9%. The company's revenue in 1984 was £12 328 335 (a drop of 6%). The poor results are blamed on labour disputes, a loss of freight business to Sealink, falling passenger traffic and oil price rises. The merger with Sealink was debated at a shareholders' meeting on 29 March and was rejected but postal proxy votes were in the directors' favour. The MONA'S QUEEN was due to make the final Liverpool sailings on 30 March. The ANTRIM PRINCESS will remain at Stranraer this year and the MANX VIKING will be chartered for the Heysham service.

MISCELLANY

The National Trust's 1984 visiting figures for islands in its care were: St Michael's Mount 147 000 (142 000 in 1983); Brownsea 116 000 (101 000); Farne 35 000 (36 000).

The floating pub NORTH WESTWARD HO (formerly the passenger vessel VECTA and WESTWARD HO) was towed from Manchester, her home for 12 years, on 20 March to Bromborough Dock, and is expected to be towed to London for new owners.

 © G P Hamer 1 April 1985

# TRIP OUT

**May 1985**

Waverley Excursions 400 passengers on a day trip from Garlieston to Douglas on 13 April had to spend two nights on the island as bad weather prevented the WAVERLEY returning to Garlieston until the morning of the 15th. A day trip from Silloth to Douglas on 14 April was therefore cancelled.

THAMES

(See also Merseyside PTE)

Crews of boats in London were on strike at the beginning of April over pay and the dispute was not settled till after Easter. One consequence was that no passenger vessels followed the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race on 6 April.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The KINGSWEAR CASTLE is due to make her first sailing with a passenger certificate on 18 May on charter to the Coastal Cruising Association.

Hobbs & Sons, Henley, have taken delivery of the 60-ft, 50-passenger CONSUTA, built by Brooms of Brundall, Norfolk. In July and August, she will offer a 2-hour afternoon trip to Wargrave, while the MARATANA continues running 1-hour cruises.

Better Boating Co, Abingdon, has ceased trading and the ABINGDON BELLE has gone to York.

Guildford Boat House has bought the narrow boat FRADLEY SWAN and renamed her SAINT CATHERINE for charter trips.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The start of the new services from Portsmouth was further delayed, having been announced for 14 April, then the 22nd, but is believed to have been running as scheduled by the end of April.

Service Maritime de Carteret The AIGRETTE V has been sold and renamed PARADISIER for excursions from Les Sables d'Olonne on the Atlantic coast of France. She had run to Jersey since 1975, mainly from Portbail for Compagnie Côte des Isles which was taken over by Service Maritime.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The delivery of the hydrofoil SPRINGEREN was delayed by ice at Copenhagen, and the start of the service has been postponed till 4 May. The cargo ship ONTIC has been sold and replaced by a larger vessel which has been renamed STAR LIBRA. The company would also like a second cargo vessel which could be used for coastal excursions in summer.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Narrowboats, Bathampton, will not be running the VICEROY this season because of a disagreement with the British Waterways Board, but hope to resume service in 1986.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Swan Line Cruisers, Fradley, have ceased running trips and the FRADLEY SWAN has been sold to Guildford Boat House; she had been based at Fradley Junction for three years.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The ROYAL IRIS is visiting London with an exhibition to promote Merseyside and was due at Greenwich on 3 May for a 12-day visit.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE left Glasgow on 2 April but after making charter sailings, her passenger certificate was withdrawn because of structural problems, and she returned to Glasgow on 17 April for modifications. The MANX VIKING was overhauled in April so the Heysham service has been maintained by the LADY OF MANN and MONA'S QUEEN, assisted by the cargo ferries PEVERIL and STENA SAILER. The MANX MAID was towed from the Mersey on 10 April and arrived at Avonmouth on the 16th after spending five days sheltering at Swansea. Her new owners intend to berth her in Bristol City Docks as a conference and leisure centre.

MISCELLANY

The former Norwegian passenger ship LIBERTY (at one time LIBERTY OF THE SOUTH SEAS) which spent part of last year in the Medway, is apparently now running between Turkey and northern Cyprus, still under British ownership.

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# TRIP OUT

**June 1985**

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THAMES

(See also Merseyside PTE)

Kingswear Castle Excursions A passenger certificate (Class V, 250 passengers; Class VI, 100) was issued on 15 May. She cannot take passengers from the Medway to Southend, so the published schedule is amended. She visits Gravesend on 30 June, then London on 6-7 July.

Invicta Line Cruises The CLYDE began running from Strood to Southend on 1 May, leaving Strood daily (except Mons) at 0900 and 1430.

Meridian Line Cruises A day trip to Southend is being advertised for Sunday 11 August.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK A 470-passenger catamaran for the Ryde service has been ordered from International Catamarans of Australia at a cost of £1.8 million. It is due to enter service next spring.

Blue Funnel Cruises The LEISURE SCENE was launched at Poole in early May and left in mid-May for Southampton for completion of fitting out.

Croson The POOLE BELLE ran local cruises on 5-8 April, 4-6 May, then from 22 May. The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE entered service on 26 May and the POOLE BELLE switched to IoW trips on the 28th.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The EARL WILLIAM entered service on 24 April. Her certificate is for 600 passengers but on night crossings her capacity is being limited to her cabin capacity of 252. The EARL GRANVILLE left Aalborg on 26 April and entered service on the 29th. She takes the night sailing from the islands while the 'WILLIAM sails overnight from Portsmouth. The EARL WILLIAM was diverted to Weymouth on 30 May because of a strike at Portsmouth.

Condor The new hydrofoil was due to enter service on 15 May as the CONDOR 7 (the CONDOR 6 was a Westamaran chartered in 1980 only). With three craft in service, all based at St-Malo, there are additional direct sailings from France to Guernsey. The CONDOR KESTREL, a 49-ft 100-passenger catamaran has been built for tendering at Herm and Sark.

Seatours (Jersey) Ltd are operating the PRIDE OF THE BAY from St Helier on cruises of 1½ or 2 hours along the south coast of the island. She is advertised as the 'Jersey Belle' though still carrying her earlier name.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M D Barrow, Exmouth The DEVON PRINCESS III, a near-sister of the "II", was completed late last year but did not enter service. She is being offered for sale for £160 000 and, if sold, would be replaced by another new vessel. The original DEVON PRINCESS has been advertised for sale for £35 000.

Torbay Seaways On the STAR CAPRICORN's first trip on 4 May, she was too heavy to travel on her foils; she returned to Torquay and 19 passengers were asked to go ashore. On her second trip, bad weather forced her to stay overnight in Jersey, and most passengers chose to return with Sealink. The trip on 12 May was cancelled by the weather. On 18 May, she took 6½ hours to reach Guernsey because of engine trouble. The first of a series of charter excursions to Guernsey was scheduled for 27 May. The owner has claimed that passengers booked on cancelled crossings are not entitled to refunds.

C J Wilson, Torquay The PRIDE OF THE BAY has been sold to run in Jersey. She had spent 20 years in Torbay under three different owners, having previously been the LEVEN on the Clyde.

Western Lady Ferry Service The landing stage at Brixham is threatened with demolition as part of a scheme to extend the fish quay; it is not clear whether suitable alternative berthing facilities could be provided. The firm's vessels tendered to the BLACK PRINCE (the Norway Line's VENUS in summer) when she called off Torquay on 17 May.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III was off service from 10 May for repairs to a leaking tank; she resumed service on the afternoon of 13 May.

## BRISTOL CHANNEL

A hovercraft began running from Barry to Minehead on 22 May.

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY began her Bristol Channel sailings on 24 May. The Balmoral Restoration Fund is now accepting donations.

## NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE The ROYAL IRIS left for London on 29 April. She was open to the public at Greenwich from 3 May until the 7th and then alongside HMS BELFAST until the 12th. She left for Liverpool on 14 May.

## IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE left Glasgow after modifications on 19 April and has since been running from Heysham. Her commercial vehicle capacity is very limited and she has been rather unpunctual. To carry cars and cycles during the TT race period, the BEN-MY-CHREE is to be chartered from her new owners.

## MISCELLANY

The former Caledonian MacBrayne CLANSMAN, owned briefly by Torbay Seaways last autumn, was renamed TAMIRA in Malta, but is now the AL HUSSEIN and seems likely to operate in the Middle East.

 © G P Hamer 5 June 1985

# TRIP OUT

**July 1985**

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NORTH EAST

Alan Oliver (Cruises), Doncaster The ACHILLES has been sold for service in Kent; she had been run by Mr Oliver for nine years, having been built for Apollo Canal Carriers. Mr Oliver now runs only the WYRE LADY.

EAST ANGLIA

The REGAL LADY, operated by Blake & Son from Norwich until last autumn, was laid-up at St Olaves on the River Waveney early this summer.

Pleasure Steamers, Great Yarmouth The business has been taken over by the Herbert Woods Group of Potter Heigham. The two vessels will continue to operate as normal this season.

Nerina Cruiseways, Horning, run the SPIRIT OF BROADLAND, previously operated by Broadland Chalets of Oulton Broad. Now equipped to serve meals, she has seats for 32 passengers.

R E Harman, Clacton, has advertised the NEMO II for sale, giving retirement as the reason for selling.

THAMES

There have been some changes in the upriver services from Westminster this season. Sailings to Hampton Court are at 1000, 1030, 1115 and 1200; the boats leave Hampton Court at 1530, 1600, 1630 and 1700. The first trip is normally by the COCKNEY SPARROW and the other three are shared by the CONNAUGHT, FORDSON and KINGWOOD. The KINGWOOD is now owned by Mr C H Wyatt who has sold THE KING following collision damage last year. Westminster to Kew sailings are made by the HENLEY and PRINCESS FREDA.

Sailing vessels participating in the 1985 Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race will be at Chatham on 20-24 July and the KINGSWEAR CASTLE and other vessels will be offering special trips on these days.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The KINGSWEAR CASTLE is due to make her second visit to London on 2 and 3 August when trips will be offered in the West India Docks. Short cruises from Southend Pier are advertised for Thursdays from 11 July to 29 August (except 1 August).

Medway Narrow Boat Co has been formed by a Mr & Mrs Walker and Mr & Mrs Hawkins to offer public and charter trips on the river between Tonbridge and Yalding. The ACHILLES has been bought from Doncaster and was due to enter service in June after a refit at Yalding.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK A second catamaran for the Ryde service has been ordered from International Catamarans of Australia.

Croson A service between Bournemouth and Poole Quay began running on Thursdays from mid-June; sailings are from Poole at 0930, 1130, 1500, 1645 and 2045, and from Bournemouth at 1045, 1415, 1600 and 2000. Fares are £3 return, £2 single and £2.80 for a non-landing cruise. Croson has been trying to introduce a service from Bournemouth to Brownsea Island but all requests have been rejected by the National Trust, owners of the island.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Service Maritime de Carteret LES TROIS LEOPARDS was sold last winter and now runs as the AMOUR DES ILES II to the Ile de Porquerolles in the south of France. Service Maritime now runs only the PECONIC QUEEN and PEGASUS, and regular trips from Cherbourg have ceased.

J Floury, Paimpol, has opened a service to Guernsey from Paimpol (about 40 miles west of St-Malo). The MONTE CRISTO, built in 1981, measuring 67 grt, 81 ft long and carrying 170 passengers, has been bought from Marseille. The trip to St Peter Port takes three hours at a speed of 15 knots. The last attempt to operate sailings from this part of Brittany to the Channel Islands was by LA DUCHESSE DE NORMANDIE in the 1960s.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The STAR CAPRICORN was damaged when it struck a shark 20 miles from Guernsey when returning to Torquay on 27 June. The craft was towed to St Peter Port, arriving at 0200; the 106 passengers were to stay aboard the EARL GODWIN before sailing to Weymouth in the morning, but a bomb scare meant that they had to spend the night in the local St John's Ambulance Hall.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

The hovercraft service which started in May has been suspended following very poor traffic.

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Bristol Channel "season" with a single trip to Milford Haven on 26 June.

R Finney, Bath, has begun running upriver trips from Bath in competition with the Bath Boating Co. The 54-passenger PULTENEY PRINCESS was built by Bounty Boats of Brundall, Norfolk.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE was chartered for relief sailings from Heysham between 25 May and 9 June, before returning to lay up at Birkenhead. She was re-registered at Liverpool and has a certificate for 750 passengers.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 10 July 1985

# TRIP OUT

**August 1985**

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NORTH EAST

Millet Investors, Scarborough The CORONIA has been transferred to run trips from Gibraltar and there are no excursions from Scarborough this season. The CORONIA had spent thirty years at Scarborough, sailing as the YORKSHIRE LADY until 1968.

THAMES

At Southend, the DREADNOUGHT has returned to service (seemingly under new ownership) after having been laid-up since 1982. She runs from the foreshore on the western side of the pier. Also running from the foreshore is the LADY ESSEX, a 46-passenger boat formerly used on the River Crouch.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer broke down on the evening of 11 July whilst returning empty from Southend; she was towed back to Chatham by the CLYDE which was out on charter.

Greenwich-Barrier Passenger Service The service between Greenwich and the Barrier is not operating this season.

London Launches have bought the KINGSTON, last operated by Carter's River Cruises in 1983, and she has been refitted and renamed OLD LONDON. She will run from Westminster to the Barrier with the ZODIAC and Westminster Party Boats' QUEEN ELIZABETH.

A E Collier, Richmond, attempted to start running the CLIFTON CASTLE from Westminster to Hampton Court in mid-July, but were prevented by the established operators, and the vessel has returned to Richmond.

C H Wyatt, Westminster, still owns THE KING (correcting the last issue) and she has resumed running to Kew.

London Waterbus Co is offering day trips on the Regent's Canal from Camden to Limehouse on certain dates; bookings must be made well in advance.

Bray Boats, Maidenhead, have advertised the BRAY LADY II, completed earlier this year, for sale for £47 500, with delivery in September.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Services The CALSHOT is being replaced by new tugs and has been advertised for sale by brokers. Her passenger accommodation had been used only on rare occasions in recent years.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Trident Charter Co, Guernsey The HERM TRIDENT III has been offered for sale for £60 000.

Vedettes Blanches et Vertes have bought the HIGHLAND SEABIRD from Western Ferries and she has been renamed TRIDENT 2 for the service from Granville to Jersey. She has replaced the BELLE DE DINARD which has been transferred to Carteret to run to Gorey and St Peter Port.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Dart Pleasure Craft have sold the Millbrook Steamboat Co and the CARDIFF and DARTMOUTH CASTLEs have been transferred back to Dartmouth. On Sundays the CARDIFF CASTLE is offering trips to Salcombe, the first such trips for very many years. On 11 and 25 August she leaves Dartmouth at 1100 and Salcombe at 1600; on the 18th she leaves Dartmouth at 1700 and Salcombe at 2000. The trip takes two hours each way and there is usually a local cruise of one or two hours from Salcombe.

Plymouth Boat Cruises have taken over the Millbrook Steamboat Co, and are now the only firm running from Phoenix Wharf. Trips are offered round the Dockyard, to the River Yealm (at 1500 on Weds, Sats and Suns), to Calstock, Morwellham (advertised for 14 and 15 August) or Weir Head, and to Looe (scheduled for 11 August).

G H & W G Pill, Falmouth The WESTMINSTER BELLE has been reported running trips from Looe so has presumably been sold; she had spent six years at Falmouth.

MISCELLANY

The former Caledonian MacBrayne and Torbay Seaways CLANSMAN is now carrying pilgrims in the Red Sea as the AL HUSSEIN on a six-month charter; she is still owned and registered in Malta.

Bristol City Council has refused permission for the MANX MAID to be berthed at Wapping Wharf near the GREAT BRITAIN; the owners are to try to get another berth in the city.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 August 1985

# TRIP OUT

**September 1985**

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THAMES

Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY will be sailing on the Thames from 14 to 22 September.

Thames Pleasure Craft  The ST MAWES CASTLE has been sold to an overseas aid organisation and is believed to have left for the Gambia with supplies.

A E Collier  The CLIFTON CASTLE began running from Westminster in August but to avoid taking trade from the established operators, leaves at 1230 for Putney, Kew, Richmond and Hampton Court, returning from there at 1730.

Windsor Boat Co  The WINDSOR JESTER and JUBILEE have been advertised for sale for £25 000 or £30 000 each; they are the only two single-decked vessels in the fleet.

P Roberts, Godalming, has bought the horse-drawn narrow boat IONA from the Steam Cruising Co of Norbury.  She is running public and charter trips on the River Wey.

SOUTH COAST

Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY began running on the South Coast on 31 August and continues until 13 September.

Blue Funnel Cruises  The LEISURE SCENE, built at a cost of £500 000, is now in service and is believed to have made her first trip in early August.

Croson  A through fare from Bournemouth to Brownsea of £4 return is offered on Thursdays; passengers transfer to a Harvey's boat at Poole.  Two-hour harbour cruises from Poole are advertised for Boxing Day and New Year's Day at 1000 and 1400; advance booking is required.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole)  The MAID OF THE HARBOUR made an experimental excursion from Poole to Swanage on 23 August and further trips were advertised for 2, 4 and 6 September.  It is hoped to run a regular service next year.  The company has also run several public trips to Wareham this season.

Boscombe & Weymouth Sea Cruises  There have been no trips from Boscombe this season, but Blue Funnel are apparently interested in running the SOLENT SCENE there next year.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK  Traffic on both routes has been much less than forecast and services are to be "restructured".

J Floury, Paimpol  The MONTE CRISTO has been offering trips to both St Peter Port and St Helier; the last sailing of the season is scheduled for 15 September from St Peter Port.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways  The STAR CAPRICORN has been making trips between Torquay and Dartmouth on Tuesdays and has also offered some evening trips.

R Coleman, a Paignton businessman, has bought the 75-ft trawler VERA and she is being converted at Galmpton into "the Jolly Roger pirate ship".  She will offer cruises in Torbay with meals and wine included in the fare.

Dart Pleasure Craft With the sale of the Millbrook fleet in the spring, bringing to an end three years of common ownership, the fleets have been reorganised. At Dartmouth this season have been the ADRIAN GILBERT, CARDIFF CASTLE, DARTMOUTH CASTLE, EDGCUMBE BELLE, PLYMOUTH BELLE and WESTERN BELLE.
Plymouth Boat Cruises With vessels transferred from Dart Pleasure Craft and the Millbrook company, the fleet this summer has comprised the EASTERN BELLE, MY QUEEN, PLYMOUTH PRINCESS, PLYMOUTH VENTURER, SOUTHERN BELLE and TOTNES CASTLE. All are used for excursions from Phoenix Wharf. The WESTON MAID was sold last year and the Cawsand service is under new ownership.
Tamar Cruising & Cremyll Ferry is the trading name of a Mr Knight who has taken over the NORTHERN BELLE from the Millbrook Co and the QUEEN BOADICEA II from Dart Pleasure Craft. He runs the Cremyll ferry and excursions from the Mayflower Steps.
Looe Cruisers & Ferries Ltd was formed in March to run the WESTMINSTER BELLE. She offers 45-min cruises round Looe Island and, on certain dates, excursions to land at Fowey.
St Mary's Boatmen's Association Mr F Thompson plans to retire and has advertised his boat, the KINGSLEY II, for sale.

NORTH WEST
Bowness Bay Boating Co A new 180-passenger vessel, the MISS LAKELAND, entered service in July. She was built by Molenaar's of Zaandam, Holland, who also built the three MISS CUMBRIAs. The LOTUS, sold last year, is now running on Loch Lomond as the LOMOND LOTUS.

IRISH SEA
Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE is to be replaced by the ANTRIM PRINCESS in October and is to be sold. Next summer, Stranraer will replace Ardrossan as Scottish port of call, and there will be no regular Fleetwood sailings, but there will be midweek trips to Liverpool.

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# TRIP OUT

**October 1985**

The summer of 1985 will be remembered as the wettest for many years, though we in the south can console ourselves with the fact that it was even worse in Scotland. To add to the misery of coastal excursion operators, a succession of gales led to many cancellations and alterations to sailings.

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THAMES

Mr Don Rose died in hospital in Rochester on 4 October. He was both an enthusiast and businessman and will be best remembered for his efforts to run the paddle steamer QUEEN OF THE SOUTH in 1966 and 1967. He bought the NEW GOLDEN SPRAY and renamed her QUEEN OF KENT in 1979, but she has been laid-up at Rochester this year.

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her sailings as scheduled with some very good loadings.

Campion Launches, Greenwich Mr Campion, formerly skipper of the VISCOUNTESS, has bought the LONDON BELLE from George Wheeler Launches and has commenced running from Greenwich to the Thames Barrier.

JGF Passenger Boats, Walton Both THE MONARCH I and VIKING M have been advertised for sale.

SOUTH COAST

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her south coast sailings as scheduled with the exception of 2 September when she was unable to return to Bournemouth and the 3rd when the trip was cancelled.

Croson Both vessels were on charter at Gosport on 28 September in connection with the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race. On six occasions in August and September, bad weather forced the POOLE BELLE to return her passengers from Yarmouth to Lymington. This month there are trips to Yarmouth on Tuesdays, Poole on Thursdays, and cruises on Suns, Mons, Weds and Fris. The Boxing Day cruises are so heavily booked with parties that both vessels will be used.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK Changes to the services were announced on 4 October to try to eliminate losses estimated to be £7 million this year. The Weymouth service will in future be run by one ship and the EARL HAROLD will return to the Stranraer-Larne route; a ship will again be chartered in summer for a Weymouth to Cherbourg service. The Portsmouth routes will continue, but will be reduced to a one-ship service during the ships' overhauls in the spring. 250 out of the 800 staff are expected to become redundant. A series of excursions was advertised to run between 17 and 29 September from Weymouth, including day trips to Cherbourg and Guernsey and overnight trips to Jersey and St-Malo.

WEST OF ENGLAND

At the Teignmouth Harbour Fiesta on 31 August, two local passenger boats won prizes: Mr Hook's RESTLESS was 'best-dressed working boat' and Mr Gamble's TRIDENT won the passenger boat race.

A Stuart, Exmouth The ORCOMBE and the Starcross ferry service were sold before the season, leaving Mr Stuart to run river cruises with the EXONIA and SEA CREST. The new owner is the Starcross Pier & Ferry Co.
Torbay Seaways announced in late-August that weekend services to the Channel Isles would be abandoned following bad weather disruption during the season. The STAR CAPRICORN was due to continue day excursions on Wednesdays and Thursdays in September.
Isles of Scilly Steamship Co is considering using Gweek on the Helford River for a separate cargo service to the islands to avoid high labour costs and port dues at Penzance. The SCILLONIAN III will be off service for annual refit from 12 to 25 November, and winter sailings will then run three times weekly.

BRISTOL CHANNEL
Bristol Narrowboats, Bathampton The VICEROY has been advertised for sale for £14 000.

NORTH WEST
Fellows, Morton & Clayton, Northwich The LAPWING now operates mainly on the River Weaver from Sutton Swing Bridge at Frodsham. She has been advertised for sale and the owners want to replace her with a larger craft.

MISCELLANY
The former paddle steamer WINGFIELD CASTLE, laid-up at Swansea for three years, is being offered for sale by Whitbread who have abandoned plans to use her as a pub.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 9 October 1985

# TRIP OUT

**November 1985**

November is the month when 'Trip Out' presents a table of the ten largest UK excursion fleets, arranged by gross tonnage and by passenger capacity. Figures in brackets are last year's positions. The main change in 1985 is the appearance of Plymouth Boat Cruises who have taken over the Millbrook Steamboat Co's business previously owned by Dart Pleasure Craft. Otherwise, it is noteworthy that at least half the entries in each list are from the Thames.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 2(2) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1093 |
| 3(3) | Woods River Services | 1076 |
| 4(5) | Waverley Excursions | 693 |
| 5(4) | George Wheeler | 658 |
| 6(6) | Windermere Lake C | 622 |
| 7(10) | Blue Funnel Cruises | 464 |
| 8(8) | Salter Bros | 453 |
| 9(-) | Tidal Cruisers | 391 |
| 10(-) | Virgin Clubs | 337 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| =1(1) | Catamaran Cruisers | 2063 |
| =1(1) | Salter Bros | 2063 |
| 3(4) | Windermere Lake C | 1840 |
| 4(5) | George Wheeler | 1585 |
| 5(6) | Woods River Services | 1484 |
| 6(9) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1328 |
| 7(-) | Plymouth Boat C | 1296 |
| 8(7) | Waverley Excursions | 1260 |
| 9(3) | Dart Pleasure Craft | 1209 |
| 10(-) | Thompson's Launches | 1127 |

## THAMES

Sailings from London to Hampton Court finished for the season in September, but a regular service from Westminster to Kew was maintained to 27 October and the HENLEY made some Kew trips in November. The winter schedule between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich started on 28 October and is the same as previous years'. London Launches are running a winter service from Westminster to the Barrier.

## SOUTH COAST

Blue Funnel Cruises The PRINCESSA has been advertised for sale for £25 000. The ISLAND or SOLENT SCENE has also been offered, for £175 000, or £200 000 with her existing business included.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) The MAID OF THE ISLANDS has been advertised for sale for £26 000.

Croson The POOLE BELLE closed the Bournemouth season on 31 October.

Boscombe & Weymouth Sea Cruises Proposals to operate a larger vessel (possibly the SOLENT SCENE) from Boscombe next season have been rejected by Bournemouth Council who have stated that 75 ft is the maximum length for vessels using Boscombe Pier.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The Sandbanks ferry will be off for annual refit for about two weeks from 6 November.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The plan to reduce the Weymouth service to a single ship next season has brought a hostile reaction in the islands, particularly Jersey where the ship from Weymouth arrives late in the evening. There have been suggestions that Channel Island Ferries could be asked to run a service from Weymouth.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways have bought the HEBRIDES from Caledonian MacBrayne and the hydrofoil STAR CAPRICORN is to be sold. The HEBRIDES has side ramps and a vehicle lift so will need no special facilities at Torquay. She is due to commence sailing to Guernsey, Alderney and Jersey next spring, with journey times similar to those of the DEVONIUN.

E & T J Cudd, Brixham The BRIXHAM BELLE was run by Mr B Cooke last season, but continued her trips to the River Dart. The GLADIA has been sold and is no longer at Brixham.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company is reportedly planning to buy the West German passenger and cargo vessel OLDENBURG, built in 1958 and measuring 312 grt, to run to Lundy.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE was replaced by the ANTRIM PRINCESS in early October, and was then laid-up at Birkenhead to await sale. Next season, sailings to Liverpool will be made on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Fleetwood to Douglas excursions will be offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in July and August by Associated British Ports (owners of Fleetwood docks) who will charter a ship from the Steam Packet Co.

MISCELLANY

A new magazine now on the bookstalls is 'On the Move' aimed at travellers using public transport, including ferries. It seems to fill a gap, looking at transport from the user's point of view, unlike other transport journals.

A new book published by David & Charles (at £20) is 'Royal River Highway - A History of the Passenger Boats and Services on the River Thames' by Frank L Dix. It contains much information and photographs not published before, but also many errors and inconsistencies; it is, however, the first book to attempt a history of the river boats running above London.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 November 1985

# TRIP OUT

**December 1985**

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THAMES

Westminster Pier was closed for repairs for two weeks from 11 November. Services to Tower, Greenwich and the Barrier operated from Charing Cross instead.

Virgin Clubs The ELIZABETHAN is offering a 5-hour cruise on New Year's Eve with buffet and champagne; fare £75!

George Wheeler Launches have taken over the CHAY BLYTH which had been laid-up since last year, and she has joined the winter service from Westminster. She was previously operated by Wheeler between 1972 and 1980 on charter from her builders, and subsequently ran for Greenwich Pleasure Craft and then Greenwich-Barrier Passenger Service.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The first of the new catamarans has been launched at Hobart and is due in service next March; the second will be delivered in May when either the BRADING or SOUTHSEA is expected to be withdrawn from service.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Channel Island Ferries Since 17 November, the Monday sailing from Portsmouth has been replaced by a sailing on Sunday night at 2300 to Guernsey and Jersey; an excursion allowing Monday in the islands is being offered for £27.

Sealink UK The Jersey parliament has approved the planned reduction in the Weymouth service and the required redundancies have been agreed by the officers' union.

Vedettes Blanches, Perros Guirec, are to open a service to Jersey and Guernsey next year with a new 82-ft vessel powered by Rolls Royce diesel engines. The owners (unconnected with the similarly-named firm at St-Malo) run local excursions from Perros Guirec which is about 65 miles west of St-Malo.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The local council has raised objections to the use of the HEBRIDES and it is still not clear whether the service can operate. The ship would be renamed DEVONIUN II and would sail from 23 May to 27 September, with trips on Friday nights to all three islands, day trips to Alderney on Tuesdays, day trips to Guernsey on Thursdays, and showboat cruises from Torquay. The cross-channel capacity would be limited to 300 passengers and 30 cars.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The LADY OF MANN was in dry dock at Birkenhead between 7 and 22 November. The MANX VIKING went into dry dock at Birkenhead on 22 November.

MISCELLANY

The MANX MAID, laid-up at Avonmouth since April, is expected to be sold, and buyers in Greece are reported to want her for further service. The owners' scheme to berth her in Bristol was rejected by the planning authority.

There was a small fire aboard the floating nightclub TUXEDO PRINCESS (the former CALEDONIAN PRINCESS) at Gateshead on 29 November; 700 people were safely evacuated.

On the other side of the Channel, the CHARTRES is making some sailings between Dieppe and Rouen in May and June; fares for the excursions start at Fr 530, and further details are available on application.

A new book published by Ian Allan (at £7.95) is 'Ferries around Britain' by John F Hendy. Valuable mainly as a photographic record of present-day vessels, the emphasis is on cross-channel ships, but many smaller vessels are also included.

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# TRIP OUT

**January 1986**

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THAMES

Salter Bros  Regular services will be reduced next season and the Henley-Marlow service withdrawn. From 18 May to 14 September, there will be two round trips daily from Oxford to Abingdon, one from Reading to Henley, one from Marlow to Windsor and one from Staines to Windsor. Short trips will be offered between 13 July and 2 September from Henley (45-min trips at 1100, 1200, 1415, 1500 and 1600), Marlow (1½-hr downstream trips at 1100, 1330 and 1600), Windsor (1-hr downstream trips at 1100, 1200, 1400 and 1600) and Runnymede (1-hr trips at 1300, 1430 and 1600). The small IFFLEY has been broken up after being out of service since 1979.

JGF Passenger Boats, Walton-on-Thames, have bought the WINDSOR JESTER from Windsor Boats to replace THE MONARCH I and VIKING M.

Bray Boats, Maidenhead  The WINDSOR JUBILEE has been bought and renamed BRAY ROYALE to replace the BRAY LADY II.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK  A new car ferry for the Fishbourne route, similar to the ST CATHERINE and ST HELEN, has been ordered from Cochrane's of Selby at a cost of £5 million. Delivery is due in March 1987.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK  The Portsmouth service is run by one ship from 5 January to 15 March, with a night sailing from Portsmouth and a day sailing from the islands. The EARL GRANVILLE is due to visit London on 19-22 February and will be open to the public in the Pool of London. The summer service is similar to last year's, but passengers may now travel on the day service from Portsmouth via Cherbourg to Guernsey and Jersey, though this is not possible in the other direction. Fares range from £25 to £35 single and include a seat and continental breakfast on night sailings. On the Weymouth service, the EARL GODWIN leaves Jersey at 0715 and Guernsey at 0945, returning from Weymouth at 1515; single fares are from £22 to £32.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways  The HEBRIDES left the Clyde on the afternoon of 22 November for South Devon. On 26 November, Torbay Borough Council agreed by one vote to allow the ship to use Torquay.

R Coleman, Torquay  The converted trawler VERA (see September issue) will be run from Torquay by a new company registered in October, Jolly Roger Fun Cruises Ltd. The vessel was built in Belgium in 1951 and will apparently resemble a pirate brigantine. Cruises will last four hours and the fare will include a meal, drink and entertainment.

Torpoint Ferry  The three ferries are to be lengthened to cope with increasing traffic. The work, which is estimated to cost over £1 million was due to start early this year.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG has been bought from Germany and arrived at Bideford on 5 December after being delayed four days by gales. She made a trip to Lundy the next day and will be refitted before entering service in March. She was built at Bremen in 1958 for the German Federal Railway's year-round service to the island of Wangerooge and also made summer excursions to Helgoland. She is 143 ft long, 312 grt and could carry 408 passengers in sheltered waters but her capacity on the Lundy service is expected to be 250. Since 1982 she had been owned by Harle-Reederei Warrings and used for excursions on the German North Sea coast.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Charnwood Marine The RUTLAND BELLE, a new 100-passenger 65-ft vessel, has been built by R & D Fabrications of Newark to run cruises on Rutland Water, an artificial lake near Oakham. The firm already runs the THOMAS SKIPWITH on the River Soar at Leicester.

Star Narrow Boat Co, Loughborough The business has been advertised for sale for £14 000.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANX VIKING left dry dock before Christmas but was still at Birkenhead at the end of the year. The service is being maintained by the ANTRIM PRINCESS alone.

MISCELLANY

Viking Island Ferries' SYLLINGAR is laid-up at Kirkwall following the failure of her owners in August and has now been offered for sale by brokers. She traded in the northern isles for only eight months and will be better known by her previous names of SCILLONIAN, DEVONIA and DEVONIUN.

 © G P Hamer 5 January 1986

# TRIP OUT

**February 1986**

1986 may see three passenger ships commencing service in the south west of England: the HEBRIDES from Torquay and the BALMORAL and OLDENBURG on the Bristol Channel. The enterprise of Torbay Seaways, returning to a ship after last summer's unfortunate aberration with a hydrofoil, deserves praise and support. The Lundy Company's purchase of the OLDENBURG is long overdue - the island has been inaccessible to all but a few holidaymakers in recent years while the island's lessees have dithered and played with a helicopter service. Perhaps their apparent lack of interest in a shipping service was explained by events in 1980 when they were misled into throwing away a large sum of money subsidising the BALMORAL. Now, defying all logic, the BALMORAL too may be running to Lundy - and numerous other places this side of Glasgow. Perhaps, she can be converted to attract the support that eluded her in the past when both Red Funnel and Campbells failed to get profitable numbers of passengers aboard her. Perhaps too, she is mechanically fit for years of service, despite having diesel engines with over thirty years' hard work behind them. Perhaps the management ability which has made such a success of the WAVERLEY can be stretched to achieve the same for a second ship. If any of these doubts turns out to be justified then there can be no second attempt to get an excursion ship to run with the WAVERLEY - the BALMORAL's resale value would be small and there could be no chance to raise enough money again.

Geoffrey Hamer

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SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The ST HELEN went to Falmouth last autumn for her annual refit.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The EARL GRANVILLE was dry-docked at Falmouth in January. She will berth alongside HMS BELFAST when she visits London on 19-22 February.

Channel Island Ferries had carried 100 000 passengers by the end of 1985. Sailings next summer are daily from 6 May to 4 October, leaving Portsmouth at 1000; the present timetable, with sailings from Portsmouth at 1000 on Tuesdays to Saturdays and at 2300 on Sundays, operates for the rest of the year. Single fares range from £25 to £32.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The 1986 brochure is now available. From 23 May to 27 September, the HEBRIDES leaves Torquay on Fridays at 2145 for St Helier (0700-0820) and St Peter Port (1055-1155), arriving back at 1810 on Saturdays (these timings are later on three weekends to avoid low tides in Jersey); excursions to Alderney (every Tuesday from 29 July to 2 Sept, plus 3 and 17 June, 1 and 15 July, and 16 Sept) and to Guernsey (every Thursday) follow nearly identical timings to the DEVONIUN, leaving Torquay at 0755. Single fares are £28 or £30, and period returns vary from £42 to £56. Cabins are available during sailings, and at Torquay before or after day return trips.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions Work on refitting the BALMORAL has started in Glasgow, and her owners hope to have her in service on the Clyde at Easter, with the first Bristol Channel sailings in April.

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG will offer day trips from Ilfracombe on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 21 May to 11 September and will run from Bideford three times a week all year. The day return fare will be £11.95.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

S Bark, Lincoln In addtion to the small BRAYFORD BANKS, the 50-passenger CITY OF LINCOLN, apparently purpose-built, runs public and charter trips on the Fossdyke Navigation and River Witham.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANX VIKING left Birkenhead after her refit on 21 January. Next summer, Liverpool sailings will run from 20 May to 13 September, Stranraer sailings will be weekly from 25 May to 31 August, Dublin will be served from 21 May to 17 September, and Belfast from 23 May to 14 September.

MISCELLANY

The SYLLINGAR, mentioned in the last issue as laid-up at Kirkwall, has been at Greenock since 27 November.

The Swedish GRIPEN AV MALMO, until recently running from Malmö to Copenhagen, was forced to call at Weymouth on 27 January after an engine room fire during her delivery voyage to Florida where she is to run day cruises.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 February 1986

# TRIP OUT

**March 1986**

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer will be based at Chatham again this summer and amongst special trips planned are visits to London on 7 June, Gravesend on 29 June, Whitstable on 12 July and 20 September, and Maldon and Colchester on 29-31 August.

Invicta Line Cruises The CLYDE will begin trips from Strood to Southend on 28 March, and they will run on Sundays in April, on Tues, Thurs and Suns in May, on Tues, Weds, Thurs and Suns in June, daily except Mons in July, August and Sept, and on bank Holidays. Sailings leave Strood at 0900 and 1500 (1000 and 1700 on Suns). The THAMES QUEEN no longer runs for the company and is operated separately by Mr S Cardy.

Greater London Council After the Council is abolished on 31 March, the Woolwich ferry will be funded by the Department of Transport and managed by the neighbouring boroughs, though the details of this have still to be agreed. The piers owned by the GLC will be transferred to the Thames Water Authority.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The first new catamaran is named OUR LADY PATRICIA and will enter service in the spring. From 16 June, when the second craft has joined her, a completely new timetable will offer sailings at 20-minute intervals at peak periods and 34 departures on summer Saturdays compared with 20 last year. Only the two new craft are needed (except on Saturday mornings when three vessels are scheduled) so the BRADING or SOUTHSEA will presumably make only relief sailings. There will be no cruises from Lymington and Yarmouth this season.

Blue Funnel Cruises have taken over the licence to ply from Boscombe Pier, but it is not clear whether it will be used this year. The SOLENT SCENE is apparently now owned by Mr M J Rayment, operator of the JENNY LEE and JENNY R, but will continue to run will the rest of the Blue Funnel fleet.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The EARL GODWIN was refitted on the Clyde during February and £600 000 is apparently being spent on improvements to the passenger accommodation.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Dart Pleasure Craft Totnes trips start on 28 March and operate every day till at least 30 September. There are up to six round trips a day.

Torpoint Ferry Tenders have been invited for the lengthening of the three craft. Each will be extended by 48 ft to 230 ft, with two being converted between April and July, and the third in 1987.

NORTH WEST

Bithells Boats, Chester The DUKE OF EDINBURGH was sold last year and now runs on the River Mersey from the Old Quay Tavern, Howley Quay, Warrington.

Bird's Sea Fishing, Fleetwood, have bought the WONDER, a 34-ft boat previously used for angling trips, and now carrying 42 passengers. Cruises will be offered up the River Wyre to land at Wardley's Creek for lunch, as well as inclusive trips from Blackpool (North Pier) by special bus to Fleetwood for a sea cruise.

National Trust The GONDOLA is scheduled to run every day from 26 March to 2 November. Trips leave Coniston Pier at 1100 (not Sats), 1230, 1340, 1450 and (from 24 May to 7 Sep) 1600. The fare to Park-a-Moor is £1.80 single or £2.80 return.

## IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Revenue last year was £16 343 543 (an increase of 33%). Passenger traffic from Heysham was 13.7% less than the 1984 figure for Liverpool and Heysham, while traffic from Ireland also fell. There was a pre-tax loss of £604 424, compared with £303 772 in 1984. After allowing for extraordinary items (the merger with Sealink, withdrawal from Liverpool, and the high cost of the MONA'S ISLE), the final loss for the year was over £3 million. The ANTRIM PRINCESS, chartered until 1995, will be renamed TYNWALD. The MONA'S ISLE has been sold, apparently to carry pilgrims, and was towed into dry dock at Birkenhead on 21 February. Two lifeboats from the MANX MAID have been fitted to her.

## MISCELLANY

The MANX MAID has been sold to C R Massie for scrap and was towed from Avonmouth on 8 February, arriving at Garston on the Mersey on the 11th. She had spent ten months laid-up at Avonmouth while a scheme to berth her in Bristol then a sale to Greece both fell through.

The National Trust's 1985 visiting figures for its islands were: St Michael's Mount, 165 000 (147 000 in 1984); Brownsea 99 000 (116 000); Farne, under 50 000.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 March 1986

# TRIP OUT

**April 1986**

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Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL was not ready to run at Easter and is now expected to enter service on 12 April on the Bristol Channel. The WAVERLEY makes her first sailings in May in Scotland. Schedules will apparently be available shortly.

NORTH EAST

J S & K Allan, Kielder Water The business, described as "highly profitable", has been advertised for sale. The trips on Kielder Water have been operated since 1982.

J S Trotter, Seahouses The WESLEY has been advertised for sale.

THAMES

Summer services from Westminster began on 24 March and follow the usual pattern. The CONNAUGHT made her first trip to Hampton Court on Good Friday.

A ferry between Weybridge and Shepperton was due to open at Easter, linking the towpath which changes from one side of the river to the other.

Meridian Line Cruises have bought the MAID OF THE ISLANDS from Poole and she has been renamed EDWARD ALAN JOHN after one of the founders of the firm which is now run by his widow.

Thames Launches The TIDEWAY has been advertised for sale for £60 000.

F & B Boat Co, Kingston, has purchased the VIKING M from Walton-on-Thames.

French Brothers, Runnymede The new 85-ft vessel is named THE NEW QUEEN OF THE THAMES. The fleet's public services include Runnymede to Hampton Court on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 May to 11 September, Runnymede to Windsor on Weds, Fris, Sats and Suns from 4 May to 28 September, and short cruises at Runnymede daily from Easter.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK Because of mechanical troubles, the BRADING was not overhauled and is not expected to resume service. The Ryde service was being run by the CAEDMON and SOUTHSEA in mid-March. The first catamaran was named OUR LADY PATRICIA on 26 March and was due in service at Easter. The craft are named after Lord Mountbatten's daughters and the second will be OUR LADY PAMELA. The SOUTHSEA is expected to be withdrawn next winter.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) The waterbus MAID OF THE ISLANDS has been sold for service on the Thames. She had been at Poole for about 20 years, having previously run on Loch Lomond as the LOMOND MAID and in Northern Ireland as the MAID OF BANN.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The EARL GODWIN is operating the Weymouth-Cherbourg service this season, and the EARL HAROLD will run between Weymouth and the Channel Islands.

Channel Island Ferries The CORBIERE was refitted at Rotterdam in March while Brittany Ferries' CORNOUAILLES maintained the service.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co There are some changes to the schedule this summer. The service runs on Mondays to Saturdays from 25 March to 18 October, and on Sundays 4 May, 1, 15 and 29 June, 6 July, 24 August and 14 September. The normal round trip is at 0915 from Penzance and 1645 from St Mary's, but on Saturdays from 24 May to 30 August and Wednesdays from 23 July to 3 September, there are two round trips, leaving Penzance at 0630 and 1345. The day return fare is £15.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's entry into service has been delayed and she is expected to make her first trip on 3 May. Her schedule includes single trips between Bideford and Ilfracombe and on some dates it will be possible to sail from Bideford to the island via Ilfracombe.

NORTH WEST

Colliery Narrow Boat Co, Northwich The BRACKLEY has been sold to Rushbrooke Narrow Boats and was converted last winter to a 5-berth hotel boat; she is cruising this summer on the Midland and north western waterways.

F Boothby, Burscough The AMBUSH, formerly operated at Liverpool by Flower of Gloster Moorings, has replaced the ROLAND which has been sold. The AMBUSH began running restaurant cruises at Easter.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S ISLE has been renamed AL FAHAD and is registered at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She left dry dock on 25 March and continued refitting in Vittoria Dock, Birkenhead.

MISCELLANY

The Cypriot ferry SOL EXPRESS (formerly Sealink's DOVER and EARL SIWARD) is to join the TUXEDO PRINCESS (ex CALEDONIAN PRINCESS) as a night club on the Tyne. She had been laid-up at Limassol since April 1984.

The former paddle steamer PRINCESS ELIZABETH was moved from her berth by London Bridge in late March and is apparently to be refitted and moved to a new position on the Thames. Former Red Funnel consorts MEDINA and VECTA (now NORTH WESTWARD HO) are both berthed in the West India Docks, London.

 © G P Hamer 1 April 1986

# TRIP OUT

**May 1986**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's schedule was published in late-April; she remains in Scotland until 15 May, then has trips to Douglas from Garlieston on 17 May, from Silloth on the 18th and further cruises from Douglas round the island on 19 and 20 May. From 23 May to 15 June, she is in Ireland, then goes to the Bristol Channel. The BALMORAL (see below) is on the Bristol Channel until 19 June, then goes to North Wales and the North West for nine days.

NORTH EAST

J Stephenson, Seahouses, operated the WESLEY - formerly of Mr Trotter - but she has now been sold for fishing from Eyemouth. She has been replaced by a new 36-ft boat named UNITY, though it is not known whether the new vessel will take passengers to the Farne Islands or will be used solely for fishing.

White Rose Line, York, has proposed building a new vessel to run on the Humber from Hull and Hessle; negotiations are proceeding with Hull City Council and the service could start next year.

THAMES

Princess Anne formally named the new Southend Pier train on 2 May.

A E Collier, Richmond The CLIFTON CASTLE began running from Westminster to Hampton Court before Easter, and she normally leaves Westminster at 1100 and Hampton Court at 1600. This service is entirely separate from that of the other Westminster operators.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The OUR LADY PATRICIA entered service at Easter. She measures 312 grt and has a Class IV certificate for 452 passengers and 5 crew. Contrary to some earlier reports, she does not have a dance floor or bar, and no refreshments are served aboard.

Croson Both vessels were refitted in March and April, and a programme of educational cruises round Poole Harbour started in March. Summer sailings are similar to last year's.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) Brownsea trips started at Easter and from this month, some sailings continue to Sandbanks. Sailings to Swanage run on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Poole at 1030 and from Swanage at 1300. Regular trips to Wareham and 45-min cruises from Wareham are also advertised this year.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torpoint Ferry The Falmouth Shiprepair yard is lengthening the first ferry at a cost of £666 000 and hopes to get the contact to do the other two.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III was off service for repairs to her crane on 15 and 16 April.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL made her first trip on 13 April from Bristol to Ilfracombe, but carried only 74 passengers as there had been no advance publicity. She went to Gloucester on the 15th, returning on the 19th.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The former MONA'S ISLE left Birkenhead for the Middle East on 7 April under her new name of AL FAHAD. The ANTRIM PRINESS was at Birkenhead for refit from 21 April to 2 May and left to resume service under her new name of TYNWALD. The MONA'S QUEEN was dry-docked at Birkenhead in late-April, leaving on 1 May to resume service. The LADY OF MANN left Birkenhead on 30 April. The BEN-MY-CHREE, sold last year, remains laid-up at Birkenhead.

MISCELLANY

The former Sealink Isle of Wight ferry FRESHWATER has been sold to Western Ferries for service on the Clyde. She had been laid-up for the past two years.

Southampton City Council is planning to buy the GALWAY BAY, formerly the Southampton tender CALSHOT, for use as a museum. She was sold by Red Funnel for service from Galway in 1964.

The floating pub ROCHESTER QUEEN has changed hands and has reopened after a refurbishment which apparently cost £85 000.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 May 1986

# TRIP OUT

**June 1986**

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NORTH EAST

Castle Line Cruisers, York  This recently-established operator runs an open boat named INVICTA. The business has been offered for sale already.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions  The paddler made her first trip of the season on 18 May. This month, she visits London on the 7th and Gravesend on the 29th, in addition to trips from Chatham, Strood and Southend.

Medway Bridge Marina, Rochester, has bought the THAMES QUEEN from Mr S Cardy but he will continue to act as skipper. The former Sunderland ferry will be used for charter trips from the marina at Borstal near Rochester. As part of the town's Dickens Festival from 29 May to 1 June, she was advertised to run an hourly service to the Marina from Rochester (Ship Pier) and Strood.

SOUTH COAST

Croson  Both vessels opened the Bournemouth season on 25 May, later than usual, though the POOLE BELLE had earlier been used for schools cruises from Poole.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) took delivery of the 64-passenger MAID OF FROME in April. She has a 36-ft Aqua-Star glass fibre hull and will normally be used for the trips to Wareham. The firm has sold its boatyard in West Quay Road and now concentrates on the passenger business.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways  The HEBRIDES was renamed DEVONIUN (without the suffix "II") and has a black hull carrying the name "Torbay Seaway Ferry", and a blue funnel with a black top. Her maiden trip from Torquay on 23 May was fully booked in advance. Day return fares are £15.95 to Alderney on Tuesdays and £19.95 to Guernsey on Thursdays. In a new promotion with British Rail, reduced period return fares are being offered to holders of railcards.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company  The OLDENBURG finally entered service on 10 May after a prolonged refit. She has a Class III certificate for 242 passengers and a Class IIA (needed for night sailings) for 130. The cargo vessel POLAR BEAR is laid-up at Appledore awaiting sale.

Waverley Excursions  The BALMORAL has a Class IV certificate for 800 passengers and a Class III for 691. She was unable to make charters from Bideford to Lundy on 10 and 11 May because of gales. The WAVERLEY is due to arrive on the Bristol Channel on 16 June and both ships are there until the 19th; on 18 June, the BALMORAL, WAVERLEY and OLDENBURG will all go to Lundy. The WAVERLEY sails until 29 June and the BALMORAL returns on 1 July.

WEST WALES

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is not publishing a booklet on boat trips this year, but the information is included in 'Coast to Coast', a free newspaper-style publication available from the Authority and local information centres.

NORTH WEST

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's trips to Douglas on 17 and 18 May were both cancelled by gales. The BALMORAL is in North Wales from 21 to 26 June, with trips from Caernarfon, Menai Bridge, Holyhead and Llandudno, then goes to Fleetwood for three days, with trips to Barrow on 27 and 29 June, and to Llandudno and round Anglesey on the 28th.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The LADY OF MANN made the first sailing of the revived Liverpool service on 20 May.

MISCELLANY

The former paddle steamer WINGFIELD CASTLE has been towed from Swansea to Hartlepool where she is to be refitted as a museum.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 June 1986

# TRIP OUT

**July 1986**

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NORTH EAST

J Stephenson, Seahouses The new UNITY which has replaced the passenger/fishing vessel WESLEY (see May issue) is used solely for fishing - mainly for crabs.

EAST ANGLIA

Pleasure Steamers, Great Yarmouth Sailings follow a different pattern this season, the first under the ownership of the Herbert Woods Group. Destinations from Yarmouth include Berney Arms, Reedham and Stokesby; fares include admission charges.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions On 26 and 27 July, the paddler is making trips from Strood and Chatham to Whitstable, with a 1½-hr sea cruise from Whitstable.

Westminster Passenger Services Association Upriver services are similar to last season. The HENLEY, THE KING and PRINCESS FREDA run to Kew; for Hampton Court, the COCKNEY SPARROW leaves Westminster at 1000 and the CONNAUGHT, FORDSON and KINGWOOD share departures at 1030, 1130 and 1200.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK A revised timetable was introduced on the Ryde service on 18 May for the OUR LADY PATRICIA and SOUTHSEA, with timings significantly different from those advertised in the brochure. The second catamaran is not expected in service till late-July or August when the new full summer schedule will be attempted.

Red Funnel Services The tug/tender CALSHOT has been sold and in June was noted laid-up at Dartmouth.

Blue Funnel Cruises The PRINCESSA began running non-landing cruises from Boscombe Pier on 25 May, and sails daily except Fridays and Saturdays; there are no trips to the Isle of Wight.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) took over North Haven Ferries of Sandbanks in May. The business at Sandbanks had been owned by Mr D E F Kingsbury who bought it from Davis Bros in the mid-1970s.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN has a Class IIA certificate for 300 passengers. In addition to a cafeteria, she also has a waitress-service restaurant. Showboat cruises at a fare of £4 are expected to operate on Wednesday evenings.

Western Lady Ferry Service are no longer offering a cruise to the River Dart and so far this season only the WESTERN LADY III has been in service, running a Torquay to Brixham service.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY arrived on the Bristol Channel from Ireland as scheduled and on 18 June, she visited Lundy with the BALMORAL and OLDENBURG.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Clayton Line no longer operate on the River Trent from Nottingham, and now only run the STENSON BUBBLE on the Trent & Mersey Canal. The TAMAR BELLE, taken over from Sherwood Line three years ago, is now owned by a Mr Tizzard but continues to run from Nottingham.

Green's Passenger Launches, Newark The MAY QUEEN has been sold and was at York in May. She has been replaced by a boat named PRINCESS KATHARINE which runs with the SONNING.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE Co-op Travel are running charters on the Manchester Ship Canal on 6 and 7 September; advance booking is recommended.

MISCELLANY

The SYLLINGAR has been sold to Greeks and left Greenock on 17 May as the REMVI bound for Piraeus via Ceuta. In a 30-year career in British waters as the SCILLONIAN, DEVONIA, DEVONIUN, then SYLLINGAR, she carried passengers and cargo to the Isles of Scilly, Channel Isles, Orkney and Shetland, and made excursions on the Bristol Channel and Thames.

The former River Severn steamer BEATRICE has been bought by the newly-formed Beatrice Preservation Society and taken by road to Kidderminster for rebuilding. She is believed to have been built in 1890 and last operated in 1971, from Stourport.

The former Isle of Wight ferry FRESHWATER is now at Renfrew being fitted out under her new name of SOUND OF SEIL.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 28 June 1986

# TRIP OUT

**August 1986**

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NORTH EAST

Calder Valley Cruising, Hebden Bridge, have begun operating on the Rochdale Canal with the SARAH SIDDONS, bought from Potteries Canal Cruising Co; she is towed by a 12-passenger boat.

D & B Tulley, Sheffield The VENTURE has been advertised for sale for £10 000.

White Rose Line, York, have taken over the ASHANTI GOLD, formerly of Ouse Cruises, and she runs with the RIVER KING and RIVER QUEEN.

Castle Line Cruisers, York, are running the EMPRESS, bought from Mr C J Lovewell of Norwich.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours A "selection" of the firm's wooden launches has been advertised for sale with delivery at the end of the season: boats carrying 50 to 85 passengers are on offer for £18 000 to £35 000.

THAMES

The tanker KINGSABBEY struck Southend Pier on 30 June, severing the landing stage and causing the suspension of sailings by the CLYDE and KINGSWEAR CASTLE. A temporary bridge has been built and sailings have resumed.

A "commuter" service from Putney to London is being operated by the TIDEWAY VENTURE, with one return trip daily.

Marinair Coastal Cruises, Ramsgate The HERM TRIDENT III of Guernsey has been bought by Marinair, a coach operator and travel agency, and renamed JOLLY ROGER. Based at Ramsgate, she makes 45-min cruises to the North Foreland at 1000, 1100 and 1200, a trip to Deal, landing on the beach, leaving at 1415 and getting back at 1700, then 1-hour evening cruises at 1915 and 2030. Fares include coach travel from Margate and district. Ticket agents at Ramsgate Harbour are Townsend Thoresen.

Kinswear Castle Excursions The paddler makes an evening cruise from Maldon on 29 August and day cruises from Maldon and Colchester on the 30th and 31st.

Meridian Line Cruises The SWANAGE QUEEN is making a public day trip from Greenwich to Southend on Sunday 10 August.

W A Jackson, Richmond The YARMOUTH BELLE, laid-up near Surbiton this year, has been offered for sale for £15 000. She had run between Richmond and Hampton Court for Mr Jackson since 1979. The HENLEY continues to run from Westminster for his son-in-law Mr J Shearing.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The OUR LADY PAMELA arrived at Portsmouth on 30 July after travelling under her own power from Australia via the Suez Canal; she was registered at Hobart for the voyage. She is due to enter service to Ryde on 9 August.

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY will be on the south coast from 30 August and is joined by the BALMORAL from 10 September.

Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co has bought the ISLAND QUEEN from Guernsey and renamed her SOLENT PRINCESS. She runs with the PORTSEA PRINCESS around Portsmouth Harbour; trips are run jointly with J Butcher & Sons and M G Pearce, from Old Portsmouth (Broad St) and the Harbour Station, and also call at the submarine museum in Gosport.

Blue Funnel Cruises The PRINCESSA caught fire off Yarmouth on 11 July whilst sailing from Poole to Yarmouth without passengers. She was repaired and has resumed trips from Boscombe including landing trips to Poole Quay on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and to Yarmouth on Fridays.

Croson Swanage Pier reopened on 27 July, after a four-year closure, and the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE restarted a service from Bournemouth. Sailings run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, from Bournemouth at 1045, 1415 and 1600, and leave Swanage 45 minutes later; the POOLE BELLE's Isle of Wight trips also call at Swanage on Mondays and Fridays. The Dorset Lakes cruises now run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and landing trips to Poole on Fridays.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) With the takeover of North Haven Ferries, the service from Poole to Sandbanks now runs every 30 minutes instead of hourly.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK Next winter, the EARL GRANVILLE will maintain the Portsmouth-CI route alone (with no Cherbourg calls), the EARL WILLIAM will run from Weymouth to the islands (including overnight runs), while the EARL HAROLD will do Portsmouth-Cherbourg and the EARL GODWIN will be relief ship.

Herm Seaway Marine The ISLAND QUEEN has gone to Portsmouth.

Trident Charter Co, Guernsey The HERM TRIDENT III, offered for sale last year for £60 000, has gone to Ramsgate.

Vedettes Blanches, Perros Guirec The new GRANIT ROSE ("pink granite") was built in the south of France and left Toulon on 10 July for her delivery voyage. She has an 81-ft aluminium hull and can carry 140 passengers at up to 26 knots. She will run to the Channel Islands from Perros Guirec.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

A Stuart, Exmouth In addition to river trips from Exmouth Dock, there are sea cruises from the Clock Tower on the seafront, including day trips to Dawlish on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, continuing on Wednesdays to Babbacombe and Teignmouth.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 August 1986

TRIP OUT

September 1986

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY had to call at Penzance for repairs on 29 August on her way from Scotland, and the weekend's sailings on the south coast were cancelled. She sails on the south coast till 16 September then on the Thames to the 28th. She will offer extra sailings on the Bristol Channel on 3-6 October, including her first ever sailings from Bristol, and ending with a single trip to Milford Haven. The BALMORAL closes her Bristol Channel season on 8 September, then sails on the south coast from 10 to 24 September before returning to Scotland.

NORTH EAST

River Tyne Cruises Ltd was formed last year to run river trips from Newcastle and has bought the BRIDLINGTON QUEEN, last used from Boscombe in 1984.

THAMES

Plans by the Thames Water Authority for a new Westminster Pier have been rejected by Westminster City Council - the proposed two-level structure is thought to be too large.

Crescent Shipping The auxiliary sailing barge CABBY is used for charter trips on the Medway and Thames estuary, and has a certificate to carry 36 passengers. She spent August on the south coast and from 11 to 24 August offered 3-hour public cruises from Yarmouth Pier, Isle of Wight.

London Borough of Greenwich now runs the Woolwich ferry, formerly owned by the GLC. Services were disrupted by strikes over pay but the dispute was settled on 12 August.

F & B Boat Co, Kingston During the school summer holidays, twice daily sailings were offered from Richmond to Kingston and Hampton Court, helping to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of Mr Jackson's YARMOUTH BELLE.

Kennet Cruises The LANCING offered trips on the Grand Union Canal at Brentford during the National Waterways Festival on 23-25 August and stays in the London area to offer a programme of public sailings between 30 August and 7 September, visiting Hertford, Bishop's Stortford, Slough and other places.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The OUR LADY PAMELA was named in a ceremony on 8 August then carried guests to view the Cowes Week firework display. She entered regular service the next day and has a certificate for 470 passengers - 18 more than her sister. The two craft now attempt services at 20-minute intervals at peak periods, though late-running is normal. The SOUTHSEA runs from Portsmouth to Ryde on Saturday mornings, but from Sundays to Thursdays she makes excursions from Clarence Pier, the first since 1979. There are trips to Ryde at 1015 and 1115 and an afternoon cruise at 1415, followed by a return sailing from Ryde at 1710; these are expected to continue to late-September.

Blue Funnel Cruises The PRINCESSA's Boscombe sailings now include a Wednesday trip to land at Swanage. Friday trips to the Isle of Wight are made by Mr Rayment's JENNY R as the PRINCESSA's certificate does not cover this trip; the Yarmouth trip is sometimes extended to Cowes.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Vedettes Blanches, Perros-Guirec The new GRANIT ROSE makes public trips to Guernsey on Tuesdays and Fridays, but may go to Guernsey or Jersey on other days on charter.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways After regular sailings end on 27 September, weekly cruises will be offered in October and, possibly, November. These leave Torquay on Monday evening, giving Tuesday in Alderney, that night and Wednesday in Guernsey, and a night and Thursday in Jersey before returning to Torquay on Friday.

Torpoint FerryThe second craft is to be lengthened by Falmouth Shiprepair who did the first. Work will start in mid-September and will cost £647 000.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Narrowboats, Bathampton The VICEROY which last operated in 1984 has been sold to Heldite Ltd to be used for tours to promote their jointing compound. Conversion was carried out this summer at Wolverhampton.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Oxford Canal Trips The business has been advertised for sale for £22 000.

Tamar Belle River Cruises is the trading name of the new operator of the business on the River Trent at Nottingham, bought from Clayton Line.

NORTH WEST

Snowdon Queen, Caernarfon The owner of the SNOWDON QUEEN is Mr R Lucas of Barrow-in-Furness. Trips on the Menai Straits operate much as before.

Weaver Valley Cruises have started running trips on the River Weaver with a vessel named RIVER PRINCESS.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 1 September 1986

# TRIP OUT

**October 1986**

The summer now drawing to a close has brought a mixture of weather that is perhaps typically British - a heatwave in July, a few wet days, the odd gale, some chilly spells and many fairly fine days. It has not been a very good summer, but nor has it resembled last year's deluge. Any soundly-run excursion business should be able to survive an average summer - only those relying on hopes of perpetual sunshine will be in trouble this autumn.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY suffered a damaged paddle wheel nine miles off Penzance on 29 August, and had to be towed into Mount's Bay, before entering Penzance Harbour for repairs. She was able to commence her south coast sailings on 2 September after missing three days. The BALMORAL was due to call at Swanage on 23 September, her first visit since 1971. The WAVERLEY may be able to call there next year after further rebuilding work on the pier next winter.

THAMES

The master of the tanker KINGSABBEY, which damaged Southend Pier in June, has been fined £1000; he was asleep at the time while the ship was steered by an automatic pilot.

Marinair Coastal Cruises, Ramsgate The JOLLY ROGER has been advertised for sale by her designers, Don Tate Associates. It seems that for her season of trips from Ramsgate she may only have been chartered from her previous operators, the Trident Charter Co of Guernsey.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer was prevented by bad weather from reaching Maldon on 29 August and trips from there and Colchester were cancelled.

SOUTH COAST

Blue Funnel Cruises The PRINCESSA has been offered for sale for £30 000. She was advertised a year ago, but spent this summer running from Boscombe; now this business is being offered to her purchaser.

Croson have blamed the Waverley organization for a fall in trade during the WAVERLEY's annual visit. Croson's managing director says the company has incurred substantial trading losses in the last two years.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK The services have incurred further losses this year and talks have been held with Channel Island Ferries over possible cooperation. There have been rumours of a joint service from Portsmouth with closure of the Weymouth route, The EARL GODWIN was scheduled to make overnight excursions to Jersey on 21, 23 and 30 Sep, day trips to Guernsey on 26 and 29 Sep, and 3 Oct, and day trips to Cherbourg on 27 and 28 Sep, and 2 and 4 Oct.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Looe Cruisers & Ferries The WESTMINSTER BELLE has been advertised for sale after two seasons at Looe; she has in the past run at Southend, Westminster and Falmouth.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Sailings continue daily except Sundays to 18 October, and are then four times weekly to 11 November; day excursions are possible on Mondays and Saturdays in this period.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL's last sailing was on 8 September and she left for the south coast during the night. Her season has not been very successful: traffic has been varied with only occasional full loads, while the weather caused a number of cancellations.

MISCELLANY

Passenger vessels on the market in Scotland recently have included the Arrochar boathiring Co's LOMOND QUEEN (for £18 000), Mr MacKenzie's SUMMER QUEEN of Ullapool, Seaboard Marine's NEW ROSELAND (for £20 000), and Thomas & Bews' SOUTERS LASS, previously the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE and WEYMOUTH BELLE (for £40 000).

The floating pub NORTH WESTWARD HO (formerly the VECTA and WESTWARD HO) was moved from Manchester to the London's West India Docks last year. Now, with wheelhouse, funnel and masts removed, she lies on the Thames between Greenwich and Woolwich; future plans are not known. The paddler PRINCESS ELIZABETH is moored nearby at Charlton where she is expected to open as a pub or restaurant.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 25 September 1986

# TRIP OUT

**November 1986**

As usual in November, 'Trip Out' presents a table of the UK's ten largest excursion operators, based on the gross tonnages and passenger capacities of vessels operating last summer. Figures in brackets show last year's positions. The only significant change from last year is the rise of Waverley Excursions' fleet following the introduction of the BALMORAL.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(4) | Waverley Excursions | 1428 |
| 2(1) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 3(2) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1093 |
| 4(3) | Woods River Services | 1076 |
| 5(5) | George Wheeler | 765 |
| 6(6) | Windermere I S Co | 622 |
| 7(7) | Blue Funnel Cruises | 464 |
| 8(8) | Salter Bros | 453 |
| 9(9) | Tidal Cruisers | 391 |
| 10(10) | Virgin Clubs | 337 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Catamaran Cruisers | 2063 |
| 2(8) | Waverley Excursions | 2060 |
| 3(1) | Salter Bros | 2003 |
| 4(4) | George Wheele | 1848 |
| 5(3) | Windermere I S Co | 1840 |
| 6(5) | Woods River Services | 1484 |
| 7(6) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1328 |
| 8(7) | Plymouth Boat C | 1296 |
| 9(9) | Dart Pleasure C | 1209 |
| 10(10) | Thompson's Launches | 1127 |

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THAMES

Westminster Passenger Services Assoc Hampton Court sailings ended in mid-October and Kew trips finished by the 31st. The winter schedule to Tower and Greenwich began on 27 October and follows the normal pattern; vessels currently running are the CHAY BLYTH, CONNAUGHT, COCKNEY SPARROW, ELEANOR ROSE, GOLDEN SALAMANDER and HURLINGHAM. Other winter services are from Westminster to the Barrier by London Launches and from Greenwich to the Barrier by Campion Launches.

SOUTH COAST

Croson The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE finished on 26 September and the POOLE BELLE continued until 31 October, running IoW trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and local cruises on other days. Bournemouth Council is to discuss the problem of competition from Waverley Excursions.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries is the name of the new joint service of Channel Island Ferries and Sealink UK; details were announced on 30 September and the Weymouth service was immediately withdrawn for the winter, while the CORBIERE and EARL GRANVILLE will run from Portsmouth. Sealink's services from Portsmouth and the Channel Isles to Cherbourg have ceased. 450 of the ships' crews were to be redundant. A strike quickly spread to all Sealink's cross-channel ships and was not settled until 15 October when it was agreed that a second ship would run from Weymouth to the CI in summer, and the number of redundancies would be limited to 120. The EARL GODWIN, EARL HAROLD and EARL WILLIAM were subsequently occupied by crew at Weymouth objecting to their redundancy arrangements. Portsmouth sailings this winter are at 1000 (not Sundays) to Guernsey and Jersey, returning overnight, and at 2200 (not Saturdays) to Jersey and Guernsey, returning by day.

Condor The CONDOR 7 operated a daily service to Poole from 1 to 20 October during the Sealink strike, using the continental ferry terminal at Poole. The weather at this time was unusually fine and the service seems to have been a success.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN made extra crossings to the islands during the Sealink strike instead of her advertised weekly three-island cruise. The company seems very pleased with the season's traffic and claims to have carried 31 000 passengers. Weekly sailings continue until 28 November, then resume on 2 March

A Stuart, Exmouth The SEA CREST has been advertised for sale for £12 500.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY made her first visit to Bristol on 1 October, sailing up the River Avon without passengers ready for a charter on the 3rd. There were public Bristol Channel sailings on 4, 5 and 6 October.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Nene Charter Co, Peterborough, have begun running the 62-passenger KEY FERRY on public and charter cruises on the River Nene.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Winter passenger services are scheduled for the TYNWALD alone, with the PEVERIL catering for ro/ro cargo. Crews of the MANX VIKING and TYNWALD held strikes in October to protest over the arrangements. The LADY OF MANN and MONA'S QUEEN are laid-up in Birkenhead's Bidston Dock for the winter.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 November 1986

# TRIP OUT

**December 1986**

I should like to wish all readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Plans for next year's 'Trip Out' guides are for a new edition on the British Isles, and a fully revised edition on Southern Europe, last published in 1983.

Geoffrey Hamer

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EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours After offering some launches for sale at the end of the season, the PRINCESS ELIZABETH has been placed on the market for £27 000 plus VAT.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer is making public cruises from Strood and Chatham on 20 and 21 December; tickets must be booked in advance.

Medway Bridge Marina The THAMES QUEEN has been offered for sale for £25 000 after just one season of charter trips on the Medway for this owner.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The new car ferry was launched on 4 November at Selby and named ST CECILIA. She is a sister of the ST CATHERINE and ST HELEN and is due to enter service to Fishbourne in March. The Company hopes to charter a ship for peak services to Ryde next summer while the intention is plainly to sell the SOUTHSEA. Two women died on 20 November at Fishbourne when their vehicle ran into the sea; they had tried to catch a ferry which was leaving and had ignored instructions to wait.

Blue Funnel Cruises The PRINCESSA has apparently been sold for service at Falmouth.

Croson The POOLE BELLE was chartered to a firm of wine merchants on 20 November to promote Beaujolais Nouveau; wine was taken aboard from two speedboats off Brownsea Island to be drunk by passengers.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK Disputes over payments to redundant crew members were finally settled on 14 November, but only after the National Union of Seamen had brought about the arrest of the VORTIGERN at Dover by the Admiralty Marshal. However, Sealink's payments are the cause of a dispute with Channel Island Ferries which was due to be heard in court on 1 December. The CORBIERE continues to run alone and the EARL GRANVILLE is laid-up at Portsmouth until the dispute is settled.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The inter-island launch TEAN has been offered for sale for £10 000. She was advertised four years ago but was retained in service after a major refit.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG will continue to serve Lundy from Bideford and Ilfracombe next year and schedules will be available shortly.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne The INDIAN CHIEF, mentioned in the supplement to 'Trip Out 1985/86', was built this year and is 55 ft long. Charter trips on the Grand Union Canal are offered all year.

MISCELLANY

A recently published book is 'Red Funnel and before' by Ron Adams (Kingfisher Railway Productions, £9.95). It covers the history of the Southampton, Isle of Wight Co and is beautifully illustrated. Highly recommended !

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 December 1986

# TRIP OUT

**January 1987**

Waverley Excursions Because of the company's precarious financial position, discount vouchers for excursions next summer are being sold this winter; vouchers cost £4 and can be exchanged for tickets worth £5 on the BALMORAL or WAVERLEY. Applications should be sent by 31 January with a remittance payable to Waverley Excursions Ltd and a stamped addressed envelope to Mr P J Murrell. See also 'South Coast' news below.

THAMES

The London Docklands Development Corporation, London Regional Transport, Port of London Authority and Thames Water Authority have jointly invited applications for the running of a fast "river bus' service in London.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK have been negotiating with Waverley Excursions over setting up a joint company to run the SOUTHSEA on excursions next season.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The court action between Sealink UK and the new company began on 2 December and lasted two weeks. Sealink was judged to have broken its agreement with the company and its approach to the trade unions was described as "brutal". Channel Island Ferries are expected to buy Sealink's share of the joint company and the cargo ferry BREIZH-IZEL has been chartered from Brittany Ferries to run with the CORBIERE. A second passenger ship is being sought for the summer service from Weymouth.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN is due to make a weekly sailing to the three islands from 2 March to 1 May, then starts her summer schedule which continues to 3 October. Sailings are similar to last summer's, leaving Torquay on Friday evenings for Jersey, returning via Guernsey on Saturday, and with day trips to Alderney on alternate Tuesdays from 5 May to 22 September, and to Guernsey every Thursday; on Tuesdays 7 and 21 July, 4 and 18 August, and 1 and 15 September, there are further day trips to Guernsey.

Lord St Leven, St Michael's Mount An amphibious craft has been built for the crossing from Marazion to replace ex-army DUKWs. Named DRAKE, the craft is 25 ft long and has a Class VI certificate for 35 passengers. The island is the property of the National Trust and is one of its most-visited properties, but is still the home of Lord St Leven.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises Ltd was formed last September by Mr Stephen wide, son of the late Captain E J Wide of P & A Campbell Ltd. The NEW ROSELAND has been bought from Seaboard Marine (Nigg) and will be renamed AVON VENTURER for trips at the upper end of the Bristol Channel. She ran originally as the ROYAL JUBILEE at Bridlington, took her present name at Falmouth in 1938, and in more recent years has served London, Torquay, Helensburgh and Cromarty.

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's 1987 timetable has been published. She sails from Bideford every Saturday (except 7 Nov when she is off for refit) but sailings on other days are less regular than in 1986: day trips from Bideford are offered up to three times weekly, while from Ilfracombe there are up to three trips a week between 13 May and 28 September; coastal cruises from Ilfracombe to the Foreland are scheduled for 9 and 23 July and 20 August. Fares are unchanged from 1986, but there is a cheap period return fare of £12 until 28 March and from 3 October.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Seamen on the TYNWALD went on strike on 5 December over manning of the cargo vessel PEVERIL and sailings did not resume until the 16th.

MISCELLANY

The former Isle of Man Steamer BEN-MY-CHREE, sold in 1985 to Markleham Trading Ltd for possible static use in the US, has been offered for sale by brokers. She has been laid-up at Birkenhead since June 1985.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 January 1987

# TRIP OUT

**February 1987**

This winter's increasingly bizarre events on the Channel Island services will leave the principal routes from the UK in the hands of two chartered Bahamas-registered ships, while Torbay Seaways have become the longest-established operator, just five years after entering the trade. The scene is further enlivened by Condor who, despite the failure of all similar services in the past, plan to run a hydrofoil to Weymouth. Sealink - for many years the sole operator from the UK to the islands - have withdrawn, humiliated. Two years ago, the re-vamped Portsmouth service was to have been a showpiece, setting the trend for the new privately-owned company. Now, Sealink UK is desperately struggling to survive: ambitious plans for new ships and new routes have all been dropped, and ships and harbours are to be sold to raise cash. I fear that the shocks felt in the Channel Islands will not be the last.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's annual refit is to be carried out by British Dredging Shiprepairers at Cardiff in March, so she is expected to open her season on the Bristol Channel at Easter. Plans to operate the SOUTHSEA in conjunction with Sealink UK have been abandoned.

NORTH EAST

H J Hanvey & Sons, Seahouses The ST CUTHBERT, used in summer for rips to the Farne Islands but currently fishing for lobsters, has been advertised for sale.

THAMES

A E Collier, Richmond The BAY QUEEN has been sold for service in Chichester Harbour. She had operated on the Thames since at least the second World War, with a succession of owners at Richmond and Westminster.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK In mid-January, as the SOUTHSEA was being prepared for delivery to Glasgow ready for operation by Waverley Excursions next summer, Sealink decided not to proceed with the scheme which would have seen the ship running to Ryde on summer Saturdays and offering excursions on other days. This year's service by the catamarans is similar to last year's, with departures scheduled every 20 mins at peak times. On the Fishbourne service, all crossings are scheduled to take 35 minutes; from 18 May to 6 September, all three ships are in service daily.

J P Adams, Itchenor, ran Chichester Harbour cruises last summer with a 40-passenger boat named WINGATE I and carried 14 000 passengers. For next season, the BAY QUEEN has been bought from the Thames and will be renamed WINGATE II. The smaller boat will be switched to run from Hayling Island.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries will charter the BARONESS M from the Greek firm Marlines for the summer service from Weymouth. She was built as the LION and served the Ardrossan-Belfast and Dover-Boulogne routes before going to Greece in April 1985. She was fitted with 384 berths and ran last summer between Italy and Turkey. She will be renamed PORTELET and registered in the Bahamas for the season which starts on 15 April and ends on 26 September; she will sail nightly from Weymouth at 2245 to Guernsey and Jersey, returning by day. The CORBIERE will continue a year-round service from Portsmouth with a departure time of 1000. Fares for both routes start at £26 single.

Sealink UK will not be running any Channel Island services this year, but intends to restart a Portsmouth-Cherbourg service as well as the summer Weymouth-Cherbourg route.

Condor is to use the CONDOR 7 for a daily service to Weymouth from 10 April to 19 October. The craft leaves St Helier at 0905 and St Peter Port at 1030, and the return trip leaves Weymouth at 1500 (timings are amended after mid-September); crossing time from Guernsey to Weymouth is two hours. Last October's service to Poole during the Sealink strike carried 3 832 passengers, an average of over a hundred per trip.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M R Walker, Brixham The 44-ft CALYPSO has been offered for sale for £39 500; designed to be used for fishing as well as tripping, her passenger capacity is 73.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN was in dry dock at Birkenhead for annual refit in early January.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 February 1987

# TRIP OUT

**March 1987**

Work on preparing the new guide to the passenger boat services of the British Isles is now under way, and letters have been sent to all 470 boat operators and shipping companies inviting them to check their entries. A leaflet describing the guide and the booklets on European services is enclosed.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions Schedules for the BALMORAL and WAVERLEY are expected to be published shortly. Last year's visits to the Isle of Man and Ireland are not being repeated.

NORTH EAST

T Machin & K Garside, Scarborough, have bought the REGAL LADY and hope to run her next season. She last ran there in 1970, then spent 14 seasons at Norwich; trips from Scarborough were last offered in 1984 by Millet Investors' CORONIA which now runs from Gibraltar.

THAMES

Thames Line has been set up to run a fast service between Chelsea and Greenwich, serving eight piers. Shares are to be issued to raise £5 million capital. A 54-ft catamaran has been ordered from Aluminium Shipbuilders of Portchester near Portsmouth at a cost of £270 000. She will carry 51 passengers at 25 knots and is due to start a trial service in July.

Voyager Clubs is the new name since November of Virgin Clubs, though the company is still part of the Virgin Group. The ELIZABETHAN is to be joined in May by the new 100-ft EDWARDIAN.

Salter Bros Services will operate from 17 May to 13 September and follow the pattern of last year with the addition of a Henley-Marlow service from 11 July to 31 August. 40-minute trips from Oxford to Iffley Lock are offered daily (except Sats) from 1 May to 30 September.

D&T Scenic's, Reading, have bought the DUCHESS from Cam Tours of Cambridge.

SOUTH COAST

Croson Sailings will operate at Easter, then as required until late-May when daily services begin. Services are similar to last year's, but with the addition of a Friday evening cruise from Swanage; return boat/bus trips are being offered between Bournemouth, Poole and Swanage.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Vedettes Blanches The SOLIDOR was at Cherbourg for her annual refit between 13 January and 10 February. She runs from St-Malo to St Helier thrice weekly this month then daily from 4 April to 1 October; direct sailings from St-Malo to Guernsey are on Sundays from 28 June to 6 September. Fast services are offered from St-Malo by the TRIDENT 3 (ex TRIDENT) from 26 March to 15 November, from Granville by the TRIDENT 2 from 18 April to 20 September, and from Carteret by the TRIDENT 1 (ex BELLE DE DINARD) from 18 April to 14 September.

Vedettes de Brehat The service from Paimpol to Jersey and Guernsey, operated for the past two seasons by the MONTE CRISTO, has not been profitable and will not run this year.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN was running in February to ship former hire cars from the Channel Isles to Torquay; passenger services resume this month. Summer schedules differ from those published in the January issue: weekend trips are to Jersey only, and Alderney trips are on Tuesdays 5 and 19 May, 2, 9 and 23 June, 7 and 21 July, 4 and 18 August, and 1, 15 and 29 September, while Tuesday Guernsey trips are fortnightly from 14 July to 8 September.

Plymouth Boat Cruises The MY QUEEN has been sold to G H Ridalls & Sons of Dartmouth.

Tamar Cruising & Cremyll Ferry The PLYMOUTH SOUND, a new 65-ft 235-passenger vessel, is to be launched in April

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Sailings will be offered daily (except Sundays) from 7 April to 17 October, with two round trips on Saturdays from 23 May to 5 September; there are Sunday trips on 10 and 24 May, 7 and 21 June, 5, 12 and 19 July, 2, 9, 16 and 30 August, and 13 September. The day return fare is £17.

NORTH WEST

B H Hughes, Conwy A new 100-passenger waterbus named QUEEN VICTORIA is due for delivery in March. She has a bar and her season will extend from March to January. She will run with the PRINCESS CHRISTINE while the smaller NEPTUNE has been sold.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN relieved the TYNWALD at Heysham last month. This summer the TYNWALD offers ten round trips weekly from Heysham where there will be connecting boat trains. Liverpool sailings start on 16 April, and in July and August are thrice weekly (Mons, Thurs and Sats). Fleetwood excursions run from 7 July to 9 September and cars and one-way passengers can be carried.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 March 1987

# TRIP OUT

**April 1987**

It is difficult to find words to describe the horror of the capsizing of the HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE off Zeebrugge. The media seem to have blamed the fact that the ship's bow doors had not been closed, but a well-designed ship should not topple over in calm seas simply because there is an opening several feet above the waterline. It is less than five years since the EUROPEAN GATEWAY, another Townsend Thoresen ship, capsized. The design features of some ferries clearly need to be modified, yet the Department of Transport has seemed to concentrate on imposing rules on the smaller firms while allowing the big ferry operators - who have more political and financial influence - to do things their own way. Readers may not need reminding that the HERALD's sisters run from Dover to Calais, while ships with similar design features run the Dover-Zeebrugge and Portsmouth-Le Havre routes; I, at least, do not intend to sail in these ships again.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions A full timetable and fares list for both ships has been published. The WAVERLEY starts on the Bristol Channel on 18 April and is there until 14 June, apart from a spell in Scotland in late-April and early-May. During the south coast visit in September, Poole will not be used because of high berthing charges, but the WAVERLEY will make her first calls at Swanage and berth there overnight.

NORTH EAST

Mid Tyne Ferries The company was dissolved in October 1985, though services were apparently continued by the parent company, British Shipbuilders. The ferry is believed to have ceased, though confirmation would be welcome. One of the vessels was recently on the market for £8000.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours, Wroxham, are having a new 70-ft 150-passenger two-deck boat named CORDON ROUGE. The DUCHESS, PRINCESS ELIZABETH and PRINCESS ROYAL have been sold, while the MARCHIONESS and VANGUARD I are expected to be laid-up this season.

Broadland Passenger Craft, Wroxham This new company will be introducing the BROADLAND EXPLORER, a 50-ft 54-passenger vessel, on trips from Wroxham to Ranworth.

THAMES

Marinair Coastal Cruises, Ramsgate, will not be running this year and the HERM TRIDENT III, chartered last summer as the JOLLY ROGER, was returned to her owners in Guernsey.

F & B Boat Co, Kingston, has bought the YARMOUTH BELLE from Mr W A Jackson. The BETA III has been sold.

Voyager Clubs The new EDWARDIAN is being built in Holland and will be based at Port Hampton, being available for charter between Hampton Court and Henley.

French Brothers, Runnymede This year's public trips are similar to last year's; the Hampton Court service runs from 4 May to 10 September and the Windsor service from 3 May to 27 September. The STEPHANIE ELIZABETH, a 60-ft vessel to carry 110 passengers, is being built for entry into service in 1988.
Windsor Belle Ltd operates the WINDSOR BELLE on charters based at Marlow. Built in 1901, she was restored by Peter Freebody & Co of Hurley, and can carry up to 40 passengers. She has been fitted with a compound steam engine dating from 1895 and a coal-fired boiler. She returned to service last summer, becoming the first passenger steamboat on the Thames since 1966.
White Horse Boats, Horton Mr I Sharp of Weymouth is to run the KENAVON VENTURE, a new 54-passenger 60-ft boat on the Kennet & Avon Canal between Devizes and Honeystreet. Trips will be mainly charters, but public trips may be offered at Bank Holidays.

SOUTH COAST
Sealink UK The ST CECILIA made an inaugural voyage on 23 March and should now be in regular service.
Blue Funnel Cruises will not be running from Boscombe Pier this year; the PRINCESSA was used last summer. Their vessels are now based in the Ocean Village, formerly Princess Alexandra Dock.
J Harvey & Sons (Poole) The PRIVATEER has been renamed MAID OF SANDBANKS, but the two other vessels taken over from North Haven Ferries have been sold, along with the FERRY NAIAD, FERRY SPRITE and NEREID.

CHANNEL ISLANDS
Sealink UK In mid-March the Home Office was negotiating to charter the EARL WILLIAM (then still laid-up at Weymouth) as a temporary detention centre for people wishing to enter this country. The EARL GODWIN is also likely to be chartered or sold. The EARL GRANVILLE will be running a summer service between Portsmouth and Cherbourg, with Cherbourg-Guernsey sailings once or twice a week.
Condor All three craft are again based at St-Malo this year for a season which started on 18 March and continues to 15 November. The CONDOR 7 will travel each day from St-Malo via Jersey and Guernsey to Weymouth and back, though there are no through fares from France to England. Inter-island services are reduced and Alderney gets only a weekly call, on Sundays.

WEST OF ENGLAND
Dart Pleasure Craft will not be offering any more trips from Dartmouth to Salcombe; those advertised in the past two seasons were apparently all cancelled by bad weather.

IRISH SEA
Isle of Man Steam Packet Co made a pre-tax profit of £455 000 in 1986, compared with a loss of £604 424 in 1985. The TYNWALD was still being refitted at Birkenhead at the end of March.

# TRIP OUT

**May 1987**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was dry-docked at Cardiff before opening her season on the Bristol Channel on 18 April. She returns to the Bristol Channel from 9 May to 14 June. The BALMORAL is on the Bristol Channel from 30 May to 3 June, then visits North Wales, serving Llandudno, Menai Bridge and Caernarfon from 5 to 10 June.

EAST ANGLIA

J E Knight, Great Yarmouth The Fairmile conversion GOLDEN GALLEON has been offered for sale by brokers for £120 000.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions Public trips begin on 17 May with an afternoon cruise on the Medway.

Beta Boats is the trading name of Mr M McGilligan who has bought the BETA III from F&B Boat Co, Kingston. The one-time fire float, built for the LCC in 1925, has started a new service from Tower Pier to the Barrier.

Westminster Passenger Services Upriver sailings to Kew and Hampton Court began on 13 April; the CLIFTON CASTLE now works with the other boats instead of in opposition, but the FORDSON is out of service with accident damage.

SOUTH COAST

Littlehampton Launch Co Mr W Inglis who has owned the business for 27 years is retiring, and has offered it for sale for £60 000. A local lecturer is forming a trust which would like to buy the boats to use on educational projects.

Sealink UK On 10 April representatives of the travel trade were taken in the OUR LADY PAMELA across Spithead then to the Continental Ferry Port where they boarded the EARL GRANVILLE for a cruise to Weymouth. The SOUTHSEA will be operating this summer, doing relief sailings to Ryde on Saturdays and excursions on other days.

Croson The POOLE BELLE opened the Bournemouth season on Good Friday, offering local cruises. The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE starts at the Spring Bank Holiday weekend and IoW trips start on 26 May.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The BARONESS M left Piraeus on 28 March under her new name of PORTELET and sailed to Weymouth, then Southampton, before taking over the Portsmouth service from 10 April while the CORBIERE went to Southampton for a four-day refit. The PORTELET opened the Weymouth route on 15 April; the Department of Transport has ordered that 30 of her cabins cannot be used until they are modified to meet fire safety requirements.

Sealink UK The EARL WILLIAM is to be chartered to the Home Office, and will be berthed at Harwich from 11 May as a detention centre for up to 120 immigrants/visitors.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN operated additional day excursions to Guernsey on Saturdays in April and the last two, at least, were fully booked. Further additional trips to Guernsey are scheduled for 12 and 26 May, and 16 June. Tuesday excursions in May cost £10 while Thursday trips are at the advertised fare of £19.95.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises The AVON VENTURER began running at Easter from the Knightstone Harbour at Weston-super-Mare. She visits Bristol, Clevedon, Penarth and Flat Holm on charters and public trips.

John Rennie Boat Co, Bath The owner, Mr T J Wheeldon, has advertised the business for sale for £105 000 plus VAT.

South Glamorgan County Council The Council's Flat Holm Project is seeking a vessel to carry 50 passengers to the island.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Avon Bridge Catering & Boating Enterprises, Evesham The GAIETY, built of iron in 1889 as Salter Bros' OXFORD, has been offered for sale for £25 000.

M E Braine (Boatbuilders) A 70-ft narrow boat built in 1947 was converted last year to carry 60 passengers and named BLACK COUNTRYMAN to run trips at the National Garden Festival at Stoke-on-Trent. She has now been offered for sale for £16 500 plus VAT. Mr Braine's CACTUS and JUBILEE, based at Great Haywood, now trade under the title "Vale of Trent Cruises".

Clayton Line, Stenson The wide-beam electrically-powered STENSON BUBBLE has been offered for sale for £22 000 by the company's liquidator. Her base, the Stenson Marina, has already been sold.

MISCELLANY

Mr Herbert Jennings of Budleigh Salterton died in March at the age of 91. From 1947 to 1975, he ran the DEVON PRINCESS from Exmouth and Torquay before selling the business to Mr M D Barrow. In 1960 and 1961, he ran the paddle steamer FRESHWATER under the names SUSSEX QUEEN and SWANAGE QUEEN.

The former paddler LINCOLN CASTLE was towed from Hessle to Hull on 31 March and, after a refit, will be moored at Grimsby by her new owner as a bar and restaurant.

 © G P Hamer 5 May 1987

# TRIP OUT

**June 1987**

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NORTH EAST

Mid Tyne Ferries  The last vessel built for the now-defunct company, the TYNE COUNTESS, is on the market for £55 000. She was built by Robb Caledon at Dundee, and has a rectangular hull propelled by Aquamaster multi-directional propellers.

THAMES

Westminster Pier was declared unsafe and closed in mid-May; the pontoons were towed away on 23 May to Wapping and should be replaced by a new pier by July. Meanwhile, services to Kew, Hampton Court and the Barrier run from Charing Cross, while other services use both Charing Cross and Festival Piers. Westminster was the busiest pier on the river and its owners, Thames Water, and the previous owners, the Greater London Council, had plans to replace it, but these were not carried out.

Kingswear Castle Excursions  Unusual cruises in June include a 6-hour cruise from Southend on the 13th and a day trip from Tilbury to Tower Pier on the 29th.

Woods River Services  The SIR THOMAS MORE was sold last year to the Thames Water Authority but has been laid-up so far this year. The SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE is now on the Tower-Greenwich service in place of the SILVER DOLPHIN which is being kept for charter work. Woods no longer has a share in the Charing Cross service.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK  The SOUTHSEA returned to service on 23 May and made trips from Clarence Pier and Ryde over the Spring Bank Holiday; traffic was low as there had been no advance publicity. She will operate regular excursions from late-June, including visits to Sandown and Yarmouth. She has already carried out berthing trials at Sandown and has a Class VI cerificate for 250 passengers to cover these, her first-ever trips outside the Solent. The BRADING has been sold, apparently for static use, and is moored in Portsmouth Harbour towards Portchester.

Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co  The SOLENT ENTERPRISE this season runs day trips to Ryde on Tuesdays, afternoon trips to Ryde on Wednesdays and day trips to Cowes on Thursdays; she also offers Harbour cruises and trips to Spit Bank Fort.

S P Maguire, Gosport, has bought the DEVON BELLE from Falmouth and she is operating from Gosport, Clarence Pier and South Parade Pier to Spit Bank Fort.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK  The EARL WILLIAM sailed on 10 May from the River Fal, where she had been laid-up since 24 March, to Harwich where the first immigrants arrived aboard on 22 May.

WEST OF ENGLAND

R H Wilby, Paignton, has sold the FAIR CLOUD to Capt G D H Wilson who continues to run her from Paignton.

R J Elworthy, Plymouth  Both boats, the CONTENT and SKYLARK II, have recently been advertised for sale_

G H & W G Pill, Falmouth The DEVON BELLE has been sold after ten years at Falmouth and is now on the Solent; she previously ran at Plymouth for about 40 years.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Leighton Lady Cruises The LEIGHTON LADY was sold by her previous operators, the Wyvern Shipping Co, to Mr P C C Truscott in 1985. She has recently been joined by a 27-ft 40-passenger boat named LINSLADE LASS.

Brummagem Boats, Birmingham, plan to introduce a 70-ft restaurant boat named DIRECTORS' LAUNCH in 1988.

MISCELLANY

The former paddler PRINCESS ELIZABETH was moved from her mooring on the Thames at Charlton in May; present whereabouts are unknown. The two other former Red Funnel vessels, MEDINA and NORTH WESTWARD HO which last autumn were moored within sight of her, have also gone.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 2 June 1987

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY returned to the Clyde as scheduled and runs there till 31 August. The BALMORAL is on the Bristol Channel until 31 August, apart from visiting the South Coast from 5 to 9 August when there are sailings from Worthing, Sandown, Ryde, Southsea, Cowes, Bournemouth, Swanage and Weymouth, and a charter on 6 August from Littlehampton. Unusual Bristol Channel trips include a first-ever call at Caldy Island on 14 July.

THAMES

A new Westminster Pier was moved into position in late-June, but was still not ready for use at the end of the month.

Kingswear Castle Excursions Forthcoming unusual trips include an upriver trip to land at Snodland on 11 July, trips to Whitstable for the Oyster Fair on 1 and 2 August, and a trip to land at Sheerness on 8 August.

Sargent Bros (Thames) Woolwich The ENCHANTE struck Battersea Bridge during an evening party on 20 June. She was damaged but there were no injuries.

A E Collier, Richmond A new vessel is currently being fitted out at Richmond. She is named KING ARTHUR (the owner's name is Arthur).

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The SOUTHSEA operates on Sundays from 21 June to 6 September making trips to Ryde and cruises from Clarence Pier. She sails to Sandown on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 30 June to 2 September, leaving Portsmouth at 0930 and Clarence Pier 0950; on Tuesdays she then offers no fewer than four cruises from Sandown to Ventnor, while on Wednesdays she returns to Portsmouth for two lunchtime harbour cruises. On Thusdays 2, 16 and 30 July, and 13 and 27 August, she goes to Yarmouth from Portsmouth at 1000, Clarence Pier 1025 and Ryde 1100; there is then a 1½-hr cruise from Yarmouth to the Needles.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torpoint Ferry The third floating bridge has been lengthened by Falmouth Shiprepairers, and all three now have an overall length of 232 ft. The formerly-unnamed craft have been named LYNHER, PLYM and TAMAR after the three rivers flowing into Plymouth Sound.

K A Pill, Falmouth The TEMPTRESS II has been advertised for sale for £16 000. She has run from Falmouth, mainly for anglers, for two years, having previously operated on the Thames and Medway.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE This year's charters by Co-op Travel between Liverpool and Manchester are on 12 and 13 September; fares are £9.45 single, or £11.95 including return by train or coach.

 © G P Hamer 4 July 1987

# TRIP OUT

**August 1987**

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Waverley Excursions On 14 July, the BALMORAL's advertised trip to Caldy Island was diverted to Tenby. A public charter on 28 July from a wharf on the River Usk in Newport carried a full load. Her Bristol Channel season has been extended to 2 September, after which she returns to Scotland. The WAVERLEY sails on the South Coast from 4 to 21 September

NORTH EAST

Mid Tyne Ferries The TYNE PRINCESS is now moored in the River Medway above Rochester, having been sold, seemingly for conversion to a houseboat.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours The new CORDON ROUGE entered service in May and normally does cruises at 1130 and 1430 daily. Another vessel was intended to have been introduced as the VINTAGE BROADSMAN (leaflets show a drawing of the SONNING of Newark), but the purchase has fallen through and another new vessel has been ordered instead for delivery next year.

R E Harman, Clacton The NEMO II has been sold and is now running from the beach at Southend. She ran from Clacton for many years up to 1982, and has since done charters from Brightlingsea.

THAMES

Westminster Pier had reopened by 4 July and services resumed their normal pattern. Two recently completed piers in London, both on the south bank, are at London Bridge City (below London Bridge) and at Greenland Dock (3 miles below Tower Bridge); the latter was built by the London Docklands Development Corporation for £838 000.

Invicta Line Cruises The CLYDE is now able to call at the Sun Pier, Chatham, on her sailings between Strood and Southend.

Meridian Line Cruises are not offering any public trips to Southend this year.

London Launches The owner, Mr Bill Williams, has retired and sold the business, including the OLD LONDON and ZODIAC, to Tidal Cruises. Mr Williams bought the ZODIAC from Thames Launches in 1978 for upriver sailings, but in 1981 opened the Barrier service which was subsequently successfully expanded. The OLD LONDON and ZODIAC continue to run from Westminster to the Barrier with Westminster Party Boats' QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Thames Line The new fast catamaran arrived in London on about 30 July and trial services should be starting soon.

A E Collier, Richmond The new KING ARTHUR is now in service between Richmond and Hampton Court.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries In mid-July, Sealink UK was threatening legal action to try to obtain £1.5 million owing after last winter's dispute, but the matter has now been settled.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Tamar Cruising & Cremyll Ferry The PLYMOUTH SOUND was built by Voyager Motor Yachts of Millbrook and is 65 long by 20 ft beam; she has a large saloon with an open deck above. The builders are inviting orders for similar vessels at a price of £148 500.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The TEAN has been sold and was seen in July moored in the River Itchen at Southampton.

R A Russell, Rock The CORNISH QUEEN has been offered for sale for £22 000 plus VAT.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Charnwood Marine, Leicester The THOMAS SKIPWITH has been sold to the Bridge Inn, Ratho, near Edinburgh, and is now running on the Union Canal as the COUNTESS OF EDINBURGH.

MISCELLANY

The ST LUCY, a former Norwegian passenger/cargo ship which has seen stationary use in London since 1976, has been sold to Norwegian excursion operator Mr P Fagerlid-Olsen for charter trips from Oslo; she ran excursions from Torquay as the MIDLAND in 1973 and 1974.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 August 1987

# TRIP OUT

**September 1987**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was off service at Glasgow with boiler trouble from 27 July to 9 August; serious problems recurred and she was withdrawn after sailing on 23 August. Sailings on the south coast (starting 5 September), Thames and Bristol Channel will be made by the BALMORAL while the SOUTHSEA has been chartered for Clyde sailings from 6 September.

NORTH EAST

T Machin & K Garside, Scarborough The REGAL LADY has been running this season, with cruises north as far as Scalby or south towards Filey Brigg.

EAST ANGLIA

Southern Coastcrafts, Great Yarmouth The NORTH WIND was struck by an oil rig supply vessel on 3 August and sank; no passengers were aboard and the ferryman jumped to safety. The wreck was raised the next day.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions Sailings continue to 11 October and include calls at Chatham's Sun Pier for the first time.

Southend Water Pleasure are this season running the NEW SKYLARK and NEMO II (bought from Mr Harman of Clacton). The DREADNOUGHT has been sold to Torquay. The firm is owned by Messrs A Richards and M Johnson.

Thames Line The new catamaran carries the name DAILY TELEGRAPH and has been chartered to the newspaper for three months to carry staff between central London and West India Dock Pier on the Isle of Dogs. Public services are expected next year.

Voyager Clubs The ELIZABETHAN hit Putney Bridge on the evening of 12 August after her rudder had apparently broken. Her superstructure was damaged and a waitress was slightly injured.

Turk Launches Kingston The WINDSOR TWO has been renamed JEFF, her original name when built.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK Two passengers on the OUR LADY PAMELA were slightly injured on 1 September when she struck the quay at Portsmouth. The SOUTHSEA's schedule was amended from that originally advertised and there were fewer Sandown trips and more to Yarmouth and the Needles. She has been chartered by Waverley Excursions for September sailings on the Clyde. A society has been formed to support the SOUTHSEA.

R A Hale, Poole, has ceased running to Wareham because the local coucil cannot guarantee berthing space at Wareham Quay.

Croson are negotiating to operate from Boscombe Pier, last served by Blue Funnel Cruises last year.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M D Barrow, Torquay All three vessels have been advertised for sale, with offers invited by 12 September.

Torbay Seaways has bought the cargo ro/ro ROF BEAVER from P&O Ferries and she is being renamed EL TAURUS to open a new service from Poole to the Channel Islands. Additional sailings in October by the DEVONIUN include Guernsey day trips on Saturdays, overnight sailings to Jersey on the 14th and 21st, returning the following night, and an Alderney day trip on 20 October.

Looe Cruisers and Ferries The WESTMINSTER BELLE has been sold after two seasons at Looe, and is now running at Plymouth.

G H & W G Pill, Falmouth, operate the PRINCESSA on River Fal cruises from the Prince of Wales Pier.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III will be laid-up from November to March, and a cargo ship will be obtained to maintain a weekly service. Passengers will have to fly - the Steamship Co has two 10-seater planes operating from Land's End.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises Public trips by the AVON VENTURER in September include coastal cruises and landing trips to Flat Holm and Clevedon from Penarth Pier, and trips from Clevedon Slipway to Bristol and Penarth.

J R Tod, Llangorse The LLANGORSE ENTERPRISE has been sold and now runs at Symonds Yat on the River Wye.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 September 1987

# TRIP OUT

**October 1987**

The 1987 season has been another mixture of typical British weather - a wet June, followed by a hot spell in July, then a mixed August and September. Our larger excursion ships have had other problems besides the weather, however. The WAVERLEY has lost a lot of revenue through her boiler trouble, and the experts' verdicts on the problem are now awaited before her owners make their next move. On the South Coast, Sealink's most extensive cruise programme for years, using the SOUTHSEA, has attracted fairly poor loadings. If she is retained, it will be because Sealink's catamarans cannot cope with summer Saturday traffic. Fortunately, her excursions do not seem to have taken a great deal of business from the local operators who have built up their trade during the years when Sealink couldn't be bothered to run excursions. The verdict of Sealink's management is awaited with interest.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL's first south coast trip on 5 September was cancelled by the weather and her sailing the following day was abandoned as she could not call at Bournemouth Pier. She sailed up the Thames for the first time on 24 September. She returns to the Bristol Channel for sailings on 10 and 11 October which are the final sailings of the season - the Clyde trip on the 17th has been cancelled. During her September Clyde sailings, the SOUTHSEA covered all scheduled sailings except those from Ayr, but passenger loadings were very poor; she was due back at Portsmouth on 1 October.

THAMES

Thames Line A further five catamarans have apparently been ordered from Aluminium Shipbuilders who built the DAILY TELEGRAPH. They are due in service in the first half of next year and will allow a full public service to be operated.

The Floating Boater, Paddington This new business has been established by a Mr & Mrs Shackleford to offer charter trips on the Regent's Canal using the narrow boat LAPWING, bought from Fellows, Morton & Clayton.

SOUTH COAST

M J Rayment, Cowes, bought the BUCCANEER from Harvey's of Poole last winter but she seems not to have been used and has been offered for sale again for £16 000 plus VAT.

Croson The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE finished her season on 24 September, but the POOLE BELLE continues through October, running to Yarmouth on Tuesdays and Fridays with local trips on other days.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) have built their own pontoon at Wareham on the opposite bank to the Quay.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor claimed in mid-September that the CONDOR 7 would have carried 47 000 passengers on the Weymouth service by the end of the season, with only 2.45% of trips cancelled. For the 1988 season, a new 135-ft catamaran is to be chartered from her Swedish builders, Marinteknik. She is due in service in June and will carry 406 passengers at 36 knots.

NORTH WEST

Fellows, Morton & Clayton has ceased operating the LAPWING which is now running in London. She had been taken over from Inland Waterway Holiday Cruises in 1980 by Mr G F Mann, trading initially under the name Premier Narrow Boats, then under the FMC name.

Wyre Borough Council The Knott End ferry is now operated by Messrs K Murgatroyd and A McCann, instead of Bird's Sea Fishing. The VIKING 66 was off service in mid-September and the operators were trying to continue the service with a 12-passenger boat.

MISCELLANY

The former Red Funnel MEDINA is now berthed again in London's West India Docks as a floating restaurant under the name 'Take Two'. Her former consorts, PRINCESS ELIZABETH and NORTH WESTWARD HO (ex VECTA) are both moored in the Thames, near Woolwich and Erith respectively, with no news of their future employment.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 1 October 1987

# TRIP OUT

**November 1987**

November brings the annual 'Trip Out' table of the UK's ten largest excursion operators, arranged by the total gross tonnages and passenger capacities of vessels operating excursion services last summer. Figures in brackets show last year's positions Sealink's SOUTHSEA (986 grt, 1331 passengers) has not been included because she was retained primarily for the ferry service to Ryde. The main change from last year's table is the rise of Tidal Cruises following their takeover of London Launches.

| | | GROSS TONNAGE |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Waverley Excursions | 1428 |
| 2(2) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 3(3) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1093 |
| 4(4) | Woods River Services | 885 |
| 5(5) | George Wheeler | 765 |
| 6(6) | Windermere I S Co | 622 |
| 7(9) | Tidal Cruises | 531 |
| 8(7) | Blue Funnel Cruises | 525 |
| 9(8) | Salter Bros | 453 |
| 10(10) | Voyager Clubs | 337 |

| | | PASSENGER CAPACITY |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Catamaran Cruisers | 2063 |
| 2(2) | Waverley Excursions | 2060 |
| 3(3) | Salter Bros | 2003 |
| 4(4) | George Wheeler | 1848 |
| 5(5) | Windermere I S Co | 1840 |
| 6(7) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1328 |
| 7(-) | Tidal Cruises | 1322 |
| 8(6) | Woods River Services | 1234 |
| 9(9) | Dart Pleasure Craft | 1209 |
| 10(8) | Plymouth Boat Cruises | 1156 |

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THAMES

Summer services in London ended on 25 October. Winter services from Westminster or Charing Cross to Tower and Greenwich follow the usual pattern. Trips to the Barrier are still being run by Tidal Cruises from Westminster, by Beta Boats from Tower and by Campion Launches from Greenwich.

SOUTH COAST

Shanklin Pier collapsed in the storm of 16 October. Last season, it was served by vessels of Blue Funnel Cruises and Mursell & Kemp.

Croson The season at Bournemouth ended on 30 October. The company is looking for a second-hand vessel about 50 ft long to run from Boscombe Pier.

R A Hale, Poole, has ordered a new vessel from J Bolson & Son, Poole.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The L'ETOILE DE SERK has been advertised for sale by brokers for £60 000.

Vedettes Blanches et Vertes The TRIDENT 1, though scheduled to run last summer from Carteret to the CI, was sold in the spring to Vedettes Rapides de l'Ocean for excursions on the Atlantic coast of France from Pornichet to Belle-Ile and Ile d'Yeu. She began running to the Channel Islands in 1976 as the BELLE DE DINARD and was the first fast catamaran on these routes. She has not been replaced.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Mumbles Pier was due to close on 1 October and may have to be demolished unless £450 000 can be found for rebuilding. The BALMORAL and WAVERLEY were unable to call there last season.

Bristol Channel Cruises The AVON VENTURER was advertised to sail from Bristol to Goucester on 31 October, returning the next day. The trips were "to celebrate the end of a successful season and to give people a taste of what's in store for 1988."

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Avon Bridge Catering & Boating Enterprises, Evesham The GAIETY has been sold for service on the Thames and is being delivered by road. Originally Salter Bros' OXFORD, she came to the River Avon in 1929 via the Kennet & Avon Canal and River Severn. She was the last passenger vessel based on the river between Tewkesbury and Stratford.

Vale of Trent Cruises The owner, Mr M Braine, has advertised one boat - either the JUBILEE or the BLACK COUNTRYMAN - for sale with its existing business.

MISCELLANY

Currently at Greenwich Pier is the London-registered passenger ship THE PRINCE ALBERT, previously the Greek excursion ship APOLLO I (1955, 619 grt). She is expected to stay till January or February, operating mainly as a static conference centre.

On the market in Scotland is the MAID OF THE FORTH of South Queensferry, originally the MAID OF BUTE. She is now being advertised for £35 000.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 November 1987

# TRIP OUT

**December 1987**

I should like to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and New Year. Plans for 'Trip Out' in 1988 include a new edition of 'Trip Out in Northern Europe' in the same format as this year's guides; further details will be given later.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's boiler is to be repaired. She carried 101 784 passengers last season, and the BALMORAL apparently carried over 97 000; the corresponding figures for 1986 were 156 238 and 91 915, while in 1985 the WAVERLEY alone carried 205 000 passengers despite bad weather.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer will be making special trips on 12 and 13 December.

Westminster Party Boats A Dutch passenger vessel has been purchased and was delivered to London in October. She is larger than the same owners' QUEEN ELIZABETH and is to be refitted for the charter trade with the new name THAMES SOVEREIGN.

Chris Cruises, Hampton The LADY CHRISTINE has been advertised for sale for £36 000. She came to the Thames from Bristol in 1985 and has been used for charter trips.

French Brothers, Runnymede, are the buyers of the GAIETY from Evesham. She returns to the Thames after 58 years in Worcestershire.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Services The SHEARWATER 3 collided with a small fishing boat off Cowes on 27 November. There were three people in the boat and one was killed and another injured; none of the hydrofoil passengers was hurt.

Sealink UK Next year's Fishbourne service is similar to this year's; three ships are used between 23 May and 11 September. Lymington schedules will change from 23 May when departures from Lymington will be at 15 and 45 minutes past each hour instead of on the hour and half-hour; the three-vessel service runs from 23 May to 11 September. The company wants to replace the three Lymington ferries with two larger ships in 1993, but the Lymington Harbour Commissioners believe the port is unsuitable for larger vessels.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries From 3 January, Portsmouth schedules are changed and the ship will sail overnight from Portsmouth and return by day. The Weymouth service runs from 30 March to 1 October, with departures from Weymouth daily at 1300 for Guernsey and Jersey, and an overnight return direct from Jersey

Sealink UK The EARL GRANVILLE will be offering a service from Cherbourg to Guernsey on Wednesdays and Sundays from 20 April to 2 October, and there will be through bookings from Portsmouth. The charter of the EARL WILLIAM to the Home Office for use as a detention centre has ended.

Condor will operate from Weymouth from 25 March to 31 October, with a Weymouth departure time of 1450. After the new catamaran is delivered, the CONDOR 7 will run a second service, leaving Weymouth at 0820 daily from 16 June to 30 September; day excursion fares will be offered and Alderney will be served as well as Guernsey and Jersey.

MISCELLANY

The former paddle steamer PRINCESS ELIZABETH has been towed from London after a stay of 17 years as a pub and restaurant. She is apparently to be used as a musuem. THE PRINCE ALBERT, formerly a Greek excursion ship, has also left London after a short stay at Greenwich.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 December 1987

# TRIP OUT

**January 1988**

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NORTH EAST

J S & K Allan, Kielder Water The business is now under new ownership and trades as Kielder Water Cruises.

York Marine Services last summer began running between Bishopthorpe and York with the DUCHESS and PRINCESS ELIZABETH, both bought from Broads Tours. The former has recently been advertised for sale for £15 950.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours The PRINCESS ANNE has been advertised for sale for £23 000 plus vat, and other launches from the fleet are also available.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Sealink UK lost their appeal against the High Court decision last winter to exclude Sealink UK from British Channel Island Ferries. The EARL WILLIAM arrived to lay-up in the River Fal on 5 December following the end of her charter as a detention ship.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN's summer programme, from 3 May to 29 September, is similar to last season's. She sails to Jersey overnight on Fridays but returns overnight instead of by day; Alderney day trips are on Tuesdays 10 and 24 May, 7 and 21 June, 5 and 19 July, 2, 9 and 23 August, and 6 and 20 September; there are Guernsey day trips on the other Tuesdays, and every Thursday. In addition, there are Guernsey day trips every Saturday in April, and further sailings in October to all three islands.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company Seventeen people stranded on the island after Christmas were taken off by the liner ST HELENA and landed at Avonmouth. Next season the OLDENBURG sails from Bideford every Saturday from 26 March to 29 October, and offers up to four trips weekly from Bideford. Ilfracombe-Lundy trips start on 11 May and are offered from one to four times weekly until 28 September, with one additional trip on 27 October. Out-of-season sailings are once or twice weekly from Bideford, with a break for dry-docking from 31 January to 16 February.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co This year's services will be similar to last year's, but with more Liverpool sailings; these run at Easter from 31 March to 6 April, then from 24 May to 24 September. The Stranraer service operates on Thursdays in July and August. Associated British Ports will continue to run day trips from Fleetwood on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in July and August. Services were suspended from 29 December owing to a dispute with the Seamen's Union over new employment terms.

MISCELLANY

The former paddler PRINCESS ELIZABETH was towed to Rouen in December, having been bought by the Association de Défense des Arts Typographiques. They plan to refit her as a museum and cultural centre and berth her on the River Seine near Paris.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 January 1988

# TRIP OUT

**February 1988**

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Waverley Excursions The PSPS has launched an appeal for a further £50 000. Vouchers for 1988 sailings are available this month, giving £5 worth of travel for £4; orders (minimum £20), payable to Waverley Excursions Ltd and accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, should be sent to Mr P J Murrell.

THAMES

Invicta Line Cruises The CLYDE's public sailings run from 3 April to 30 October, with trips every Sunday, Easter Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays from June to September, Wednesdays in July and August, and Fridays in August. Departures are from Strood at 0900 and 1500 (1000 and 1700 on Sundays) and from Southend at 1130 and 1700 (1230 and 1900 on Sundays); all trips call at Chatham (Sun Pier) 10 minutes after Strood. Fares are £6.80 return or £3.50 single.

Westminster Party Boats hope to run trips from Westminster to Southend next summer with their former Dutch vessel, currently being refitted as the THAMES SOVEREIGN.

Salter Bros plan to introduce a new vessel named LADY ETHEL this season.

British Waterways Board has advertised for someone to lease or jointly operate the LADY ROSE OF REGENTS, based at Little Venice.

White Horse Boats, Horton Short public trips will be offered most Saturday and Sunday afternoons from Devizes Wharf.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The SOUTHSEA will be offering trips from Southsea and Ryde to Bournemouth next summer, but will not take passengers on trips from Bournemouth.

Croson Next summer's services are similar to last year's, but the Bournemouth-Poole trips on Wednesdays are replaced by Bournemouth-Swanage sailings.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The hydrofoil STAR CAPRICORN, operated in 1985, was sold to Italy and ran last summer between Milazzo, Sicily, and the Lipari islands for a firm called CO.VE.MAR Eolie.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III will be in service this year from 26 March to 29 October. Sailings are daily (except on Sundays) until 15 October, then four times weekly. Sunday trips are on 22 May, 19 and 26 June, 3, 10 and 17 July, 7, 14 and 21 August, and 4 September. As usual, there are two round trips on summer Saturdays (21 May to 3 September).

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG will be making some sailings between Ilfracombe and Swansea next summer by arrangement with Waverley Excursions.

WEST WALES

F G John, St David's The SEA VIXEN has been advertised for sale for £12 000 plus VAT.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Sherwood Line, Nottingham The narrow boat MAID OF SHERWOOD has been advertised for sale for £17 000.

NORTH WEST

R Hughes, Conwy The SAUCY SAL has been advertised for sale for £16 500.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The seamen's strike has continued since 29 December and in late-January an island firm proposed chartering Torbay Seaways' DEVONIUN to provide an emergency service. The Steam Packet Co sent dismissal letters to the seamen on 27 January and the Seamen's Union called a strike on all British ferries for 2 February.

MISCELLANY

The former Clyde steamer QUEEN MARY has been bought by Charrington and is being refitted at Chatham; she is expected to open this summer as a pub in London, presumably at the Waterloo berth formerly occupied by the OLD CALEDONIA. She first arrived in London in 1981 but her planned conversion as a restaurant/pub was never completed.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 February 1988

# TRIP OUT

**March 1988**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY is due to open her season on the Clyde on 28 April, and will be on the Bristol Channel from 18 May to 21 June; she is due to visit the south coast and Thames in September. The BALMORAL is due to run on the Bristol Channel at Easter, then on the Thames from 30 April to 8 May (with calls at Clacton and Harwich), the east coast of Scotland, then the south coast on 27-31 May, Northern Ireland, then the Bristol Channel from 14 June to 7 September, interrupted by a visit to North Wales and the Mersey from 3 to 14 July; a visit to south Devon and Cornwall is being considered for September.

THAMES

Southend Water Pleasure have bought the MAID OF THE FORTH from Mr Watson of South Queensferry. Built to run from Rothesay as the MAID OF BUTE, she later ran from Fort William before going to the Firth of Forth where she is now being replaced by a new vessel.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The KINGSWEAR CASTLE offers Medway cruises on Sunday afternoons from 22 May to 18 September (except 26 June and 10 July); from 13 July to 16 September, there are also trips on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Special trips include some on Saturdays and visits to London and Whitstable. Chatham's Sun Pier is used in addition to Chatham Historic Dockyard and Strood.

Thames Line The first of the new catamarans has been towed from Portchester to the Isle of Wight where Hovertravel have been given a contract to fit-out the craft.

Thames Water Authority The SIR THOMAS MORE was not used last year after being bought from Woods River Services, and has since been sold to Thames Television.

Salter Bros Services run from 15 May to 11 September, with the Henley-Marlow section offered between 17 July and 4 September. The Staines-Windsor boat is based at Windsor instead of Staines, and leaves Windsor at 0900 and 1430, and Staines at 1110 and 1630 daily. In a judgement given by the House of Lords on 25 February, five men who stopped the GORING from drifting downriver at Reading one night in September 1984 were found ineligible to claim salvage because their rescue took place in non-tidal waters.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The catamarans will be calling at Clarence Pier this summer between 16 May and 9 September; seven Portsmouth-Ryde trips and nine Ryde-Portsmouth trips call there on Mondays to Fridays, with a crossing time from Southsea to Ryde of 12 minutes. The SOUTHSEA's midweek excursions are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 28 June to 8 September.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries After spending the winter laid-up at Weymouth, the PORTELET went to Falmouth to begin her overhaul on 29 February.

Condor Building of the new catamaran is suffering technical problems and delivery will not be possible till after the summer season. The builders Marinteknik will supply a smaller catamaran to run between France and the Channel Islands to allow the CONDOR 5 and 7 to run together from Weymouth between 29 April and 31 October; in the main season, departures are daily at 1440 to Jersey (calling at Alderney on Mons, Fris and Suns) and 1505 to Guernsey and Jersey. The previously-announced day excursion services from Weymouth have been cancelled.
Service Maritime Carteret Jersey runs from 1 April to 2 November, serving Jersey and Guernsey from Portbail, Carteret and Cherbourg.

NORTH WEST

Huddersfield Canal Society The BENJAMIN OUTRAM has been transported by road from Uppermill, where she has run for four years, to Marsden on the eastern side of the Pennines. She will run on a newly restored section of the canal between Marsden and Slaithwaite.

National Trust The GONDOLA runs this year from 26 March to end-October.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The seamen's strike was finally settled after 47 days, and the TYNWALD resumed sailing from Heysham on 14 February.

MISCELLANY

The National Trust's 1987 visiting figures for islands in its care were: St Michael's Mount 173 000 (169 000 in 1986); Brownsea 110 000 (unchanged); Farne and Lundy, each under 50 000.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 March 1988

# TRIP OUT

**April 1988**

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Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL opened her season on the Bristol Channel at Easter. Her visit to London in early May has been cancelled and she will instead run on the Bristol Channel then.

THAMES

Services between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich resumed summer schedules on 28 March, and up-river services to Kew and Hampton Court resumed at Easter. Greenwich Pier was removed for refit before Easter and replaced by a temporary pontoon with space for only one boat, causing long delays to boat services.

Westminster Party Boats The THAMES SOVEREIGN, bought in Holland last autumn, formerly ran on the Rhine as the DEUTSCHES ECK for Köln-Düsseldorfer; she was built in 1930, is 134 ft long and could carry 500 passengers. She was still being refitted at Easter. The firm has also bought the KONINGINNEPLAAT from Spido of Rotterdam, and she was brought across the North Sea in March after some conversion work in Holland. She was built in 1960, is 87 ft long and could carry 205 passengers. Both vessels will be used mainly for charter work and the QUEEN ELIZABETH and her share of the Westminster-Barrier service have been sold.

S A Metcalf, Westminster, has bought the QUEEN ELIZABETH and has commenced running her to the Barrier. The CONNAUGHT will continue to run upriver from Westminster, but apparently under new ownership.

Windsor Boat Co The WINDSOR CONSORT was fitted out for high-class charter work, and last summer was based at Maidenhead. She has been sold to Mr R J Allen, trading as Consort Cruising, who will begin operations this spring. She has been renamed THE NEW CONSORT. Details from Maidenhead Boat Centre.

Kennet Marine Services, Reading The MELODY K has been sold and is being rebuilt at Maidenhead with a new upper deck.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The PORTELET left Falmouth after her refit on 5 March.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN is believed to have visited Southampton for her refit before opening the season at Easter.

G D H Wilson, Paignton The FAIR CLOUD was advertised for sale last winter with her business for £37 500.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises Public sailings advertised for April and May from Bristol, Clevedon and Penarth include trips to Gloucester on 10 April and 14 May, and a number of trips to land at both Steep Holm and Flat Holm.

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG makes her first trip to Swansea, a day trip from Ilfracombe, on 26 April; further trips to Swansea are on 12 and 26 May, 9 and 23 June, and 7 July, while there are day trips from Swansea to Ilfracombe on 2 May, 14 and 30 June, and 14 July. After a peak season break, there are a further five Swansea trips in September.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Edwardian Dining, Leamington Spa This new firm plans to introduce a new 45-passenger restaurant boat named PRINCE REGENT on the Grand Union Canal between Leamington and Warwick.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 April 1988

# TRIP OUT

**May 1988**

Waverley Excursions Both ships were refitted at Milford Haven in April. Timetables for the season were distributed at the end of April. The BALMORAL ran on the Bristol Channel on the Mayday holiday weekend, then runs from Kent and Essex on 6-8 May before going to the east of Scotland. She returns to the south coast on 27-31 May before going to Northern Ireland; the trip on 27 May is a charter to The Missions to Seamen from Littlehampton to Bournemouth. The WAVERLEY is on the Bristol Channel from 21 May when she goes to Padstow for a charter the following day from there to Lundy.

NORTH EAST

Tyne & Wear PTE The SHIELDSMAN will offer public trips from South and North Shields to land at Newcastle Quay on Sundays from late-July to early-September.

THAMES

Thames Line A sixth 57-ft catamaran has been ordered. The first is named BARCLAYS BANK (after sponsors) and began trials in London in April. A regular service is due to start on 1 June, calling every 15 minutes at Charing Cross, Festival, Swan Lane, London Bridge City, Cherry Garden and West India Dock Piers. The service will later be extended to Chelsea and Greenwich.

Beta Boats After one season on the Tower-Barrier service, the BETA III has been exchanged for Collier's KING ARTHUR.

Westminster Passenger Services Association The CONNAUGHT has been bought from Mr S A Metcalf by a consortium which includes Mr J J Shearing (owner of the HENLEY) and Mr C H Wyatt (of the KINGWOOD); after a major refit, she is due to return to service to Kew and Hampton Court this month. She will visit the Henley Regatta on charter in July.

Venture Cruises 86 Ltd operates one-hour cruises from Festival Pier. The TIDEWAY VENTURE was joined in April by the THAMES QUEEN, returning to London after four years on the Medway.

A E Collier, Richmond The KING ARTHUR, built last year, has been replaced on the Hampton Court service by the BETA III which has been renamed DAWN LOUISE. The BETA III was built as a fire float for the London County Council and was converted to a passenger vessel in the 1950s, keeping her original name until now.

Thames Valley Leisure, Maidenhead, are the new operators of Kennet Marine Services' MELODY K, now renamed MERRIE ENGLAND II and based at Maidenhead for charter work. She carries 72 passengers with overnight accommodation for eight.

Aquadine Enterprises, Wargrave The two vessels are now based at Bray, and the operators are Showboat.

SOUTH COAST

J P Adams, Itchenor The WINGATE I has been advertised for sale for £15 000. She has been used privately by the owner in winter and has been as far as the Mediterranean via the French canals. Croson will not be running from Boscombe Pier as it has a life of only two years; the council is considering demolition or rebuilding. The POOLE BELLE operated at Easter, had a charter on 30 April, then resumed public trips on 1 May.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor The catamaran to be introduced this summer is being built by Fairey Marinteknik in Singapore; it is 115 ft long and can carry 300 passengers at 36 knots.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises Unusual public trips being advertised include a trip from Penarth to Chepstow on 13 May, and Clevedon to Gloucester on 7 June and to Chepstow on 8 June; sailings between Sharpness and Gloucester are also offered on certain dates.

NORTH WEST

Lawrence Gordon Enterprises, Marple, will not be operating the UNICORN on the Peak Forest Canal this year.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN was chartered by Sealink for sailings between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire after the ST DAVID was damaged by fire on 17 April. Services have been suspended since 29 April by the seamen's strike. Financial results for 1987 show a pre-tax profit of £2 550 000 compared with £455 000 in 1986; turnover was £18.4 million, an increase of 4.5%.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 May 1988

# TRIP OUT

**June 1988**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY is now on the Bristol Channel and stays there until 21 June. She made her first visit to Padstow on 21-23 May. The BALMORAL returns to the Bristol Channel from 21 to 30 June, then goes to North Wales and the Mersey.

THAMES

Crews on all boats in London were on strike from 21 to 25 May to protest at the sacking of one man.

The former TYNE PRINCESS which went to the Medway last year has been renamed GALAXY. In May, she was boarded by police and other officials after she had carried passengers to Strood from the Radio Caroline ship ROSS REVENGE anchored at sea.

Thames Line A further catamaran is named LONDON DOCKLANDS. Services run on Mondays to Fridays from 0700 to 2200, and at weekends from 1000 to 1800. Single fares are £1 or £2, depending on distance.

Westminster Party Boats The KONINGINNEPLAAT has been renamed LADY PHYMAR. The THAMES SOVEREIGN was in service by mid-May, operating charters; the firm still plans to offer Southend trips, though no details are yet available.

Westminster Passenger Services Association There were no up-river services on 17-19 May as Kew Pier was closed for repairs. The CONNAUGHT made her first trip of the season on 29 May, to Hampton Court. She and THE KING (owned by Thames Tripping) are due to visit the Henley Regatta on charter at the end of June.

Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society The JOHN PINKERTON runs from Barley Mow Bridge, Winchfield, until 17 July, then from Colt Hill, Odiham, until 9 October. Earlier this year, she offered trips from Ash Wharf and Woking.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries is the name being used instead of Red Funnel Services. The Group's 1987 accounts show turnover of £11.8 million (up 8.5 %) and profit before tax of £2.36 million. There was increase in the number of passengers carried, and the hydrofoils carried over 500 000 passengers for the first time.

R A Hale, Poole The new PURBECK GEM was launched at Bolson's yard in May. She has a saloon with a bar and an open upper deck, and can carry 150 passengers. Bolson are trying to get further orders for passenger vessels, having built the LEISURE SCENE and three vessels for the associated Croson fleet in recent years.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries Services were affected by seamen's strikes for a few days in early May.

Condor The new catamaran was delivered by ship from Singapore and arrived in Guernsey on 11 May.

Vedettes Blanches et Vertes As part of an aid scheme for French shipowners, the French Government is to give a subsidy of F 600 000 (about £57 000) towards the running of the SOLIDOR.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN this year has a blue hull, the same colour as her funnel. Normal day return fares are £15.95 to Alderney and £19.95 to Guernsey, but Alderney trips were on offer for £8 in May. An overnight excursion fare to Jersey, leaving on Friday night, is available at £20.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 1 June 1988

# TRIP OUT

**July 1988**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY is now on the Clyde and is due to stay there until she begins her south coast sailings on 3 September. The BALMORAL is in North Wales and the Mersey until 10 July, then stays on the Bristol Channel till 7 September.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer visits Whitstable for the Oyster Fair on 30 July.

Westminster Passenger Services Association The CONNAUGHT's charter to an American company to attend the Henley Regatta was cancelled and the only Westminster boat at the regatta is THE KING.

SOUTH COAST

Littlehampton Launch Co The business has changed hands and the company has been renamed River Arun Cruises.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) The MAID OF THE HARBOUR collided with a landing craft off Hamworthy on 26 June at 1821. Of the 71 passengers and three crew aboard, 23 were injured, and the boat was badly damaged. The passengers were taken off, and the boat was later towed back to Poole.

R A Hale, Poole The new PURBECK GEM is 55 ft long and her propellers are in tunnels to give a shallow draft.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor The new catamaran is named CONDOR 8 and was in service by 29 May.

Vedettes Blanches et Vertes have added a further catamaran, the TRIDENT 4, to their fleet. She replaces the TRIDENT 1 which was sold before the 1987 season.

WEST OF ENGLAND

G H & W G Pill, Falmouth The ST GERRANS has been sold and was seen on the Clyde at the end of May. Built at Falmouth in 1927 for the St Mawes ferry, she went in 1968 to run from Eastbourne and later Tower Pier, before returning to Falmouth in 1975. In recent years, she has been used mainly on the Helford River cruise, which this season is normally taken by the TUDOR PRINCE.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises Public sailings in July include trips from Penarth to Weston, with four round trips on the 23rd

NORTH WEST

Hesketh Launches, Fleetwood, are running the CONTENT, bought last year from Mr R J Elworthy of Plymouth. She is advertised to make 30-min trips on the River Wyre and evening cruises; for sailing times.

IRISH SEA

The Isle of Man Government chartered the Norwegian car ferry BOLETTE from Fred. Olsen Lines for the TT Race period, in case the seamen's strike continued. She arrived in Douglas on 22 May, and made sailings to Holyhead, Belfast and Liverpool, before returning to Kristiansand in Norway on 14 June.

MISCELLANY

THE PRINCE ALBERT, the former Greek day cruise ship APOLLO I, spent most of the winter at Chatham, then moved to Sheerness on 18 April. Her owners plan to berth her in London as a club and restaurant.

The former Clyde steamer QUEEN MARY, now owned by Bass, has been fitted with two funnels at Chatham and will be berthed in London at the berth once occupied by the OLD CALEDONIA by Waterloo Bridge.

The NORTH WESTWARD HO, former passenger vessel and Manchester pub, is now also on the Medway, berthed between Chatham and Gillingham. Her owners, and their plans for her, are unknown.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 30 June 1988

# TRIP OUT

**August 1988**

Readers may have noticed that the last newssheet contained no details of the SOUTHSEA's excursions. I wrote to Sealink in June asking for details and, in reply, received a brochure on inclusive holidays in the Isle of Wight which, although mentioning the SOUTHSEA, gave no details of her programme. A phone call to Portsmouth seemed the only way to find out. A second frustrating experience in June was an attempt to join Salters' boat from Windsor to Staines; this time I had the company's timetable brochure but I found the service was cancelled for ten days without any advance warning. I have always regarded the telephone numbers as one of the most important pieces of information in my 'Trip Out' guides - a quick call can save an unnecessary journey. I would be interested to hear if readers have had similar problems, and of course, please report any changes to the phone numbers listed in the guide.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions have apparently not decided whether the BALMORAL will operate in South Devon and Cornwall after her Bristol Channel season ends on 7 September.

NORTH EAST

River Tyne Cruises The BRIDLINGTON QUEEN has been advertised for sale by brokers for £32 000.

THAMES

Services in London were disrupted by a strike over crews' wages which began on 4 July and was not fully settled until the 25th.

Thames Line The prototype 54-ft catamaran DAILY TELEGRAPH was sold in May to Mowlem, owners of London City Airport, for about £275 000 and renamed LE PREMIER. She is run by Thames Line from Charing Cross and Swan Lane to a new pier serving the airport at North Woolwich. The third of the 57-ft catamarans delivered this summer is named DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Westminster Party Boats are unable to offer Southend trips as the THAMES SOVEREIGN has not been able to get a certificate to go below Gravesend. She has started public trips from Festival Pier to Greenwich and the THAMES QUEEN also runs on this service.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The SOUTHSEA runs on Sundays until 11 September and on Bank Holiday Monday from Clarence Pier to Ryde at 1030, 1130, 1230 and 1640, leaving Ryde 30 minutes later, with a 2-hour cruise from Clarence Pier at 1415. Sailings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until 15 September leave Portsmouth 1015, Clarence Pier 1040, Ryde 1110 and Cowes 1200 for the Needles and Southampton Docks (11, 23, 25 Aug, 8, 14 Sep), Yarmouth and the Needles (16, 18, 30 Aug, 1, 15 Sep) or Southampton's Ocean Village (dep 1300) and the Needles (9, 17, 31 Aug, 6, 13 Sep). Landings at Cowes are in Mr Rayment's boats. There are no trips to Sandown or Bournemouth.

Blue Funnel Cruises During an "open day" at Fawley Power Station on 30-31 July, the ISLAND SCENE and SOLENT SCENE offered cruises to Cowes and the Hamble River from the Power Station.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Francois Pere, Goury The SEA FOX, a 66-ft boat bought in the USA, has opened a service from Goury, near Cap de la Hague, to Alderney. She can carry 66 passengers and the crossing takes 45 minutes.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Edwardian Dining, Leamington Spa The new PRINCE REGENT began running restaurant cruises in May on the Grand Union Canal from Leamington Spa and Offchurch. The owner is a Mr V R H Edwards.

NORTH WEST

F Boothby, Burscough Both vessels have been offered for sale, with or without their existing business.

MISCELLANY

The QUEEN MARY was towed to her new berth above Waterloo Bridge on 29 July. She is smartly painted in her original colours with two white and black funnels, but is not yet ready to open as a pub.

Recently offered for sale in Ireland is the SEVERN PRINCESS, advertised as the "last surviving Severn ferry" - she was used on the service from 1959 to 1966 when the Severn Bridge opened; since 1975, she has carried cargo in Galway Bay.

Recently published (by Conway Maritime Press at £15.95) is Alistair Deayton's 'Steam Ships of Europe', a fully illustrated guide, covering not only operational passenger steamers in this country and abroad, but steamers that are preserved statically or have been converted to diesel. Thus well-known favourites appear alongside interesting vessels that are missed out of other books. Highly recommended!

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 August 1988

# TRIP OUT

**September 1988**

It has always seemed sad that this country suffers a shortage of good quality excursion vessels while there are so many in Holland, Germany and other continental countries. The difficulties of meeting Department of Transport rules and other factors have meant that very few vessels have been bought from abroad. It is all the more remarkable then that the past year has seen three vessels arriving from Holland: the LADY PHYMAR and THAMES SOVEREIGN in London and the NEPTUNE'S LADY at Banavie near Fort William.

Largest is the 134-ft THAMES SOVEREIGN, now with a certificate for 312 passengers. She has an attractive profile and is fast and spacious, but still needs much work to repair the dilapidation of the years when she was laid-up in Holland. When the interior has been brought up to present-day standards, she should be a real asset to the Thames charter trade. She can be sampled on her public trips from Festival Pier to Greenwich where she unfortunately runs with the small, scruffy THAMES QUEEN.

The LADY PHYMAR, 87 ft long and carrying 190 passengers, has the same owners, but is used almost solely for charters. Very smartly turned out, her interior is comfortable but plain - she was built in 1960 and had been in service in Rotterdam until bought last spring.

At the other end of the country, the NEPTUNE'S LADY, 105 ft long and measuring 220 grt but carrying only 100 passengers, runs on the Caledonian Canal. Built as a steam tug in 1908, she was converted to a passenger vessel in 1947 for Spido of Rotterdam. Her three saloons are attractively fitted out, with much varnished woodwork, and the bar, with its mirrors and polished brass, still retains its traditional Dutch character.

These three vessels deserve long and successful careers in this country; let us hope the British excursion trade can be enlivened with more continental vessels in future.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was stormbound during her voyage from Scotland and missed at least the first two days of her south coast programme, due to start on 3 September. She continues on the South Coast till 18 September, then sails on the Thames and from Kent and Essex until 9 October; her first-ever call at Harwich is due on 29 September. The BALMORAL will not be visiting south Devon and Cornwall this month, and instead her Bristol Channel season has been extended, and she will pay a second visit to Northern Ireland before returning to Scotland.

THAMES

Thames Line Two further catamarans have entered service, both named after sponsors: the CHELSEA HARBOUR arrived in July and the DEBENHAM TEWSON AND CHINNOCKS (a firm of property surveyors) in August.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries will run from Poole from early next year, replacing the present services from Portsmouth and Weymouth; a dispute over schedules at Portsmouth is partly blamed, but the move will reduce crossing times. Both the present ships are likely to be replaced, but plans have yet to be confirmed. The PORTELET is due to make the final sailings on the Weymouth route on 1 October. Torbay Seaways currently run a freight service from Poole to the islands and their future plans are not known.

WEST WALES

N Hadley, Saundersfoot, has commenced running the MY QUEEN II, apparently last used at Torquay, on trips to Tenby and cruises round Caldey Island.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

R & B Hosler, Gloucester, began running trips around Gloucester Docks in April with a 59-passenger boat named HEATHER SPRAY. Normal trips last 25 minutes, but charters can be offered as far as Sharpness or Worcester.

MISCELLANY

The Greek REMVI, formerly known in this country as the SCILLONIAN, DEVONIA, DEVONIUN and SYLLINGAR, has entered service this summer across the Adriatic from Igoumenitsa and Kerkira ("Corfu") to Brindisi. In the two years since she went to Greece, she has been rebuilt with much additional superstructure.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 September 1988

# TRIP OUT

**October 1988**

The 1988 summer weather can have brought little joy to operators of excursion ships and pleasure boats. After some fine spells early in the season, July was cold and wet, while August and September brought some short spells of good weather.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY managed to reach Bournemouth on 4 September and started her south coast sailings there. She is due to complete her Thames sailings on 9 October, and then makes her last trips of the season on the Bristol Channel on 15 and 16 October. The BALMORAL made two successful day trips from Portaferry to Peel, Isle of Man, on 17 and 18 September before ending her season on the Clyde.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours The HER MAJESTY has been sold to Ireland and has been running from Galway on Lough Corrib as the CORRIB PRINCESS. She was the last boat in the fleet with a varnished wooden hull.

THAMES

Thames Line The service was extended to Chelsea Harbour in September, but calls at Cadogan Pier in Chelsea have not started yet, nor has the planned extension downriver to Greenland Pier.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK plan to sell the SOUTHSEA which was due to make her last excursion on 15 September.

Red Funnel Ferries are considering ordering larger fast craft carrying up to 200 passengers to replace the present four 67-seat hydrofoils. The NETLEY CASTLE damaged her bow at the Southampton terminal on 26 September.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) The MAID OF SANDBANKS has been advertised for sale for £40 000 plus VAT; an expansion of the company's business is given as the reason.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries Sailings from Poole are due to start on 2 January. The company is to charter the SCIROCCO as the main ship on the Poole service next year. Built in 1974 as the ST EDMUND for Sealink's Harwich-Hoek service, she served as the Falklands troopship KEREN from 1983 to 1985, and is now owned by Cenargo Ltd of London who have chartered her in the past three summers to Italian, Moroccan and Tunisian operators. Measuring 8987 grt and 427 ft in length, she will be the largest ship ever to serve the islands when she enters service next Easter.

Service Maritime Carteret Jersey The PECONIC QUEEN has been sold to Ireland and has been running for Mr P O'Brien to the Aran Islands as the ARAN SEABIRD. Originally operated in the United States, she has run from Carteret and Portbail to Jersey since 1978.

Vedettes Armoricaines The BRITTANIA has been sold to Aran Ferries and renamed GALWAY BAY; she will begin running to the Aran Islands next year. She had run from Granville to Jersey since building.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J A Lane, Paignton The DART PRINCESS has been sold to Caledonian MacBrayne for use as a tender at Eigg. She was delivered to Oban by road.

NORTH WEST

Wyre Borough Council The Knott End ferry VIKING 66 has been advertised for sale by tender; closing date is 21 October.

MISCELLANY

On the market in Scotland is the GAY QUEEN of Rothesay; the owner, Mr G F Wilson, is asking £26 000.

The former Red Funnel tug/tender CALSHOT has been operating trips from Dublin this summer, for Dublin Bay Cruises who once operated the TARA, now the CORAL STAR III on the Firth of Tay.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 October 1988

# TRIP OUT

**November 1988**

As usual in November, 'Trip Out' has a table of the UK's top ten excursion operators, arranged by gross tonnage and by passenger capacity. Only those vessels used last summer mainly for excursion services are included; last year's positions are in brackets. The operators listed all appeared in last year's table, but there have been some minor position changes.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Waverley Excursions | 1428 |
| 2(2) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 3(3) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1026 |
| 4(4) | Woods River Services | 885 |
| 5(5) | George Wheeler | 765 |
| 6(6) | Windermere I S Co | 622 |
| 7(7) | Tidal Cruises | 531 |
| 8(8) | Blue Funnel Cruises | 525 |
| 9(10) | Voyager Clubs | 487 |
| 10(9) | Salter Bros | 453 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(3) | Salter Bros | 2153 |
| 2(2) | Waverley Excursions | 2060 |
| 3(1) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1883 |
| 4(4) | George Wheeler | 1846 |
| 5(5) | Windermere I S Co | 1682 |
| 6(8) | Woods River Services | 1330 |
| 7(6) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1328 |
| 8(7) | Tidal Cruises | 1322 |
| 9(9) | Dart Pleasure Craft | 1209 |
| 10(10) | Plymouth Boat Cruises | 1156 |

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY returned to Scotland after a sucessful weekend on the Bristol Channel on 15-16 October. The Landmark Trust has decided to refuse to allow either the BALMORAL or WAVERLEY to land passengers at Lundy next year. The ostensible reason is an incident in June when bad weather stranded the WAVERLEY's passengers on the island overnight.

NORTH EAST

T Machin & K Garside, Scarborough The REGAL LADY will visit Hull in January to promote holidays in Scarborough, and other visits are apparently planned to Norwich and Newcastle.

Richardson & Simpson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE ended her season on 30 October. During this winter's refit an awning is to replaced by a fixed roof. Her sailings resume at Easter.

THAMES

Summer services between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich ended on 30 October. The winter service follows the usual pattern, and there are also winter services to the Barrier from Westminster and Greenwich. A limited service to Kew was offered on 4-5 November and may continue on subsequent weekends.

Medway Narrow Boat Co, Tonbridge The ACHILLES has been advertised for sale for £16 500, or with her present business for £18 500.

Southend Water Pleasure The two smaller vessels have been advertised for sale - the NEMO II for £22 000 and the NEW SKYLARK for £24 000. The MAID OF THE FORTH, bought last winter, has been used for charters as well as short trips, and can go to the Medway, Swale or up the Thames to Greenwich.

Thames Line A further catamaran is named HARBOUR EXCHANGE. Services now run over the whole route from Chelsea Harbour to Greenland Pier in Deptford. The DAILY TELEGRAPH was slightly damaged on 1 November when she struck a barge off Festival Pier.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The PORTELET reverted to her previous name of BARONESS M after the closure of the Weymouth service and returned to Greece, going into lay-up at Aiyion on the Gulf of Corinth. The SCIROCCO is be renamed ROZEL.

Vedettes Blanches et Vertes The Westamaran TRIDENT 4, added to the fleet last summer, was formerly the CELESTINA of Italian operator Alilauro. She was built in 1981 and can carry 250 passengers.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Dart Pleasure Craft Two vessels have been advertised for sale - the EDGCUMBE BELLE at £60 000, and the WESTERN BELLE at £80 000.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co plans to spend £1.5 million on the LADY OF MANN to improve passenger accommodation and increase vehicle space.

MISCELLANY

Caledonian MacBrayne's COLUMBA arrived at Chatham on 17 October; her new owners are having her refitted as a cruise ship for the Western Isles of Scotland.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 November 1988

# TRIP OUT

**December 1988**

I should like to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Subscriptions to this newssheet continue to the end of March. Plans for 1989 include a new edition of the guide to the passenger boat services of the British Isles.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY had an overhaul at Milford Haven before returning to the Clyde. The BALMORAL is spending the winter in Bristol.

THAMES

Kingswear Castle Excursions Special afternoon cruises from Strood and Chatham are scheduled for 10 and 11 December, and 1 January.

British Waterways Board (Regent's Canal) The LADY ROSE OF REGENTS has been operated since April by a Mr Rimmer as a restaurant boat from Little Venice. Dinner cruises are offered at a fare of £25, and the vessel is available for party bookings at lunchtimes.

SOUTH COAST

Needles Pleasure Cruises, Alum Bay A new glass fibre vessel named RAMBLIN' ROSE entered service last summer. The hull was fitted out by the owner, Mr I N Watling.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The first sailing from Poole is at 2130 on 2 January, and the winter timetable has departures from Poole every evening except Mondays and Saturdays, returning from the islands by day on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and overnight on Mondays and Saturdays. From 21 March to 2 November, there is a sailing from Poole every evening. A second ship is on the route from 25 May to 30 September, leaving Poole at 1000 and returning overnight. The shortest crossing time from Poole to Guernsey is 5 hours. British Rail are offering through rail and sea fares, with buses between the station and ferry terminal at Poole.

WEST OF ENGLAND

G H Ridalls & Sons, Dartmouth The HEART'S CONTENT, smallest and longest-serving member of the fleet, has been offered for sale.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Edwardian Dining, Leamington Spa After just one season, the new restaurant boat PRINCE REGENT has been offered for sale by her owner, Mr V R H Edwards, with the business.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The 1989 timetable shows a further increase in Liverpool sailings which run at Easter (23-29 March), then from 26 May to 26 September, with four sailings a week in the peak season. Day trips from Fleetwood are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 July to 30 August. The Stranraer-Douglas service operates on Thursdays from 13 July to 24 August.

MISCELLANY

The veteran ST GERRANS, which went from Falmouth to new owners on the Firth of Clyde in the spring, has been placed on the market again; the owners are asking £45 000.

The COLUMBA left the Medway on 11 November for Great Yarmouth where she is to be converted to a cruise ship.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 December 1988

# TRIP OUT

**January 1989**

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NORTH EAST

Pennine Boat Trips of Skipton The business, including the COBBYDALE, has been advertised for sale for £60 000.

White Rose Line, York The 50-ft, 105-passenger RIVER QUEEN has been advertised for sale for £50 000.

THAMES

The THAMES QUEEN, which returned to London last year to run trips from Festival Pier, has been offered for sale for £30 000.

Campion Launches, Greenwich The LONDON BELLE's winter sailings to the Thames Barrier are at 1200, 1315 and 1430; she is currently the only boat running to the Barrier.

Thames Line The HARBOUR EXCHANGE was slightly damaged on 9 December when she hit a police launch and Southwark Bridge.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The CUTHRED, laid-up at Lymington since 1987, has been sold to a Newcastle company who reportedly plan to convert her to a paddle steamer. The 1989 timetable shows fewer Ryde sailings, and even on summer Saturdays there are two trips per hour with no attempt at the 20-minute frequency of the catamarans' first three seasons. The catamarans offer a Clarence Pier to Ryde service from 15 May to 10 September daily except Saturdays (last season the SOUTHSEA ran from Clarence Pier on Sundays). Car ferry services are increased, with a three-ship service on both the Fishbourne and Yarmouth routes from 15 May to 1 October. A further ferry similar to the three "Saints" is to be ordered for the Fishbourne service with delivery in the autumn of 1990.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The CORBIERE was chartered for a Portsmouth-Jersey excursion on New Year's Eve, returning to Portsmouth for the last time on the morning of the 2nd. As second ship from Poole, Brittany Ferries' CORNOUAILLES is to be chartered and renamed HAVELET (a bay near St Peter Port). The BARONESS M, chartered for the Weymouth service for the past two seasons, has in recent weeks been running between Cyprus and Lebanon.

Sealink UK opened a freight service from Portsmouth to Guernsey and Jersey on 3 January using the EARL GODWIN; she is to be replaced later by a freight-only ship. The EARL GRANVILLE will be running Cherbourg-Guernsey on Sundays from 28 May to 29 October and on Tuesdays from 19 July to 4 October, with through bookings from Portsmouth as last season.

Condor Weymouth services run from 20 March to 30 October, leaving the mainland at 1440 until 9 April, 1440 and 1505 from 10 April to 23 September, then at 1300 from 24 September. There are thrice weekly calls at Alderney from 28 April to 22 September.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN's season extends from 24 March to 28 October and there are more overnight sailings than before. Early season trips include cruises to all three islands and day trips to Guernsey on 24 March (Good Friday) and Saturdays 22 and 29 April. From May to September, sailings to Jersey are every Friday night and from 19 June on alternate Monday nights; Alderney day trips are on alternate Tuesdays from 2 May; Guernsey trips leave on Wednesday nights until 14 June and from 13 September, and a day return trip is offered on Thursdays from 22 June to 7 September. Evening cruises from Torquay are on Wednesdays from 21 June to 6 September. Fares range from £20 to £30 single; day returns are £14 to Alderney and £19.95 to Guernsey.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co This year's sailings run from 19 March to 27 October. There is a double sailing on Saturdays from 27 May to 2 September.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

S Bark, Lincoln The business, trading as Cathedral City Cruises and including two boats built in 1984, has been offered for sale by brokers for £85 000.

MISCELLANY

The QUEEN MARY opened as a pub and restaurant by London's Waterloo Bridge in December. The interior is unrecognizable from her Clyde days, staff wear sailors' suits and bar prices are high even by central London standards.

THE PRINCE ALBERT, currently laid-up at Tilbury but formerly the Greek day cruise ship APOLLO I, is for sale for a reported £3.5 million. She was refitted for up-market charters and conferences, but seems to have done little since arriving in this country in 1987. The owners, Mr and Mrs Waterman, also run the 12-passenger restaurant/hotel boat CAPTAIN WEBB, based at Richmond.

 © G P Hamer 8 January 1989

# TRIP OUT

**February 1989**

Preparation of the 1989 guide to the passenger boat services of the British Isles has started and, during this month, letters will be sent to all boat operators and shipping companies. The guide will follow a similar format to the last edition, but with a few improvements

Part of the research has involved checking limited companies and a few interesting facts have come to light. The oldest UK company still operating passenger vessels is the Southampton, Isle of Wight Co (now known as Red Funnel Ferries) incorporated on 10 September 1861, followed by the Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co (1883), the King Harry Steam Ferry Co (1888), Caledonian MacBrayne (1889), Hobbs & Sons of Henley (1901) and the Ullswater Navigation & Transit Co (1904). Some of these companies have been renamed. All are much younger than the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co of 1830, and it should be noted that firms may have been in business long before being incorporated as limited companies. A sad fate has befallen some companies no longer in the passenger business who have been renamed: the General Steam Navigation Co became P&O Ferries (General European) Ltd, the New Medway Steam Packet Co is POETS Fleet Management, the River Dart Steamboat Co is the River Dart Boat & Leisure Co, while the Yarmouth & Gorleston Steamboat Co, after trading for 90 years from 1894, had the name Genesco Ltd inflicted on it. Their Victorian founders would surely not have been amused.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions Vouchers for 1989, giving £5 of travel for £4, can be ordered until 15 March from Mr P J Murrell in Bristol. Minimum order is five vouchers; cheques payable to Waverley Excursions Ltd should be sent with a stamped addressed envelope.

THAMES

Thames Line The last of seven 57-ft catamarans is named LONDON BROADCASTING COMPANY.

Salter Bros This year's services are similar to last year's and run from 14 May to 10 September. 40-minute round trips from Oxford to Iffley run from 1 May to 10 September. The Marlow-Henley service runs from 16 July to 3 September. All services except Oxford-Abingdon are suspended between 26 June and 3 July, when most boats are on charter for the Henley Royal Regatta. The new LADY ETHEL is available for charter all year, and a further new vessel is due this year.

SOUTH COAST

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) have taken over the trips from Rockley Sands to Brownsea and Wareham, previously run by the FROME LADY. Harveys will use their own boats and have offered the FROME LADY for sale for £20 000.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

A new company called Weymouth Maritime Services wants to charter a ship to start a year-round service from Weymouth to Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey.

British Channel Island Ferries The SCIROCCO sailed in January from Alicante via Ceuta to Southampton, where she arrived on 8 January for a refit.

Sealink UK The cargo service from Portsmouth to the islands which started last month, is run by Mainland Market Deliveries and Commodore Shipping who have chartered the EARL GODWIN from Sealink.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Grand Western Horse Boat Co, Tiverton Public trips in 1989 start at Easter and continue to 8 October, with daily trips between 29 May and 1 October. Charter trips to Sampford Peverell cannot be offered this year owing to a canal breach.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises are reported to have ceased trading. The AVON VENTURER has been advertised for sale for £93 750 by brokers.

NORTH WEST

J R & E W Jones, Caernarfon, owners of the QUEEN OF THE SEA, now also own Caernarfon's other passenger boat, the SNOWDON QUEEN, formerly run by Mr R Lucas.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co A £2.6 million contract to rebuild the LADY OF MANN has beeen awarded to Wright & Beyer of Birkenhead who began work in mid-January. Passenger accommodation will be gutted and replaced. There will be seating for a reduced capacity of 1000 passengers, with car space increased from 100 to 130. She is due to return to service in May. The TYNWALD is also at Birkenhead for annual refit, while the MONA'S QUEEN runs the Heysham service.

 © G P Hamer 5 February 1989

# TRIP OUT

**March 1989**

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Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL runs on the Bristol Channel at Easter (25-27 March), visiting Ilfracombe each day from Bristol (not on Sunday), Portishead and Penarth. She resumes on 28 April with a trip from Rye, Sussex, then has three days on the Thames Estuary. The WAVERLEY starts her season on 28 April in Scotland and is due to run on the Bristol Channel from 17 May to 18 June.

NORTH EAST

Brown's Boat House, Durham The PRINCE BISHOP, a 65-ft two-decked vessel to carry 150 passengers, is being built at Hartlepool for delivery by June. The small wooden DUNELM II has been offered for sale for £10 000.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours, Wroxham The new VINTAGE BROADSMAN, 70 ft long and carrying 175 passengers, entered service last year. Of the firm's traditional wooden vessels, the MARCHIONESS, MARINA, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA and PRINCESS ANNE have been sold, while the VANGUARD II has been renamed PRINCESS ROYAL.

Norfolk County Council has invited tenders from private operators to run the ferry across the River Ouse at King's Lynn.

A Green, Cambridge, bought Broads Tours' MARCHIONESS for trips on the Rivers Cam and Ouse.

THAMES

R E Newing, Grove Ferry, last year built a new 48-ft 70-passenger catamaran to run on the River Stour; she took the name RENEROY IV from her predecessor.

Thames Line The Government has announced a grant of up to £500 000 to maintain the service.

F & B Boat Co, Kingston The owner, Mr R J Balcomb, has moved to Cornwall after selling his three boats - the PRINCESS MARINA, VIKING M and YARMOUTH BELLE - to Turk Launches. Mr Balcomb began running trips in about 1970 at Walton-on-Thames and took over the base at Kingston in 1977.

SOUTH COAST

Portsmouth Harbour Ferry Co A new subsidiary, Gosport Ferry Ltd, was formed last year and now runs the passenger vessels. The SOLENT ENTERPRISE will this summer offer trips to Portsmouth Harbour, Ryde, Cowes (normally on Thursdays) and the Hamble River.

S P Maguire, Gosport The owner of Spit Bank Fort sold the DEVON BELLE last July to a Plymouth owner. The service to the Fort from Gosport and Clarence Pier is now operated by Mr M J Rayment's Cowes-based boats.

M J Rayment, Cowes The 116-passenger JENNY M has entered service.

J Harvey & Sons (Poole) A new MAID OF THE ISLANDS, 50 ft long and carrying about 130 passengers, is being built.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The ROZEL sailed from Southampton to Poole on 16 February after a £1 million refit. After berthing trials at all three ports, she was open to the public at Poole on 20 February and entered service the next day.

Weymouth Maritime Services, run by a Capt Ivan Allo, is to charter the Norwegian BOHUS for sailings to Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey, starting in May, and also plans to run winter services to Cherbourg. The BOHUS measures 1561 grt, is 258 ft long and can carry 550 passengers and 75 cars, loaded through bow and stern doors. She was built in 1977 as the German EMSLAND and was chartered to run from St-Malo to Jersey in May 1984. Last year she was chartered to run in North Norway as the LOFOTFERGA; for the Weymouth service she is to be renamed ST JULIEN, a name carried by a GWR Weymouth steamer between 1925 and 1960.

Vedettes Blanches & Vertes The SOLIDOR, TRIDENT catamarans and local excursion vessels at St-Malo and Granville are now all operated under the name Emeraude Lines.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN arrived at Falmouth on 20 February for her annual refit.

G H Ridalls & Sons, Dartmouth, have bought the EASTERN BELLE from Plymouth Boat Cruises and are renaming her TOTNES PRINCESS.

R A Russell, Rock, died last year and the CORNISH QUEEN has been sold for service in Scotland.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Channel Cruises has ceased trading, but the owner Mr S Wide plans to continue running the AVON VENTURER on charter trips.

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG will not be making any public trips to or from Swansea this year. Ilfracombe-Lundy trips run from 1 May to 27 September, with extra trips on 25 and 26 October. There are more Ilfracombe trips this summer, and of 23 Lundy trips in August, only four are from Bideford. The day return fare is £12.95 from either port.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Severn Steamboat Co, Stourport The MISS JASON, last used in 1980, has been repurchased and will be returned to service this season. Built in 1939, she is 72 ft long and will carry 100 passengers.

NORTH WEST

Ribbon Plate Restaurant Boats A second narrow boat restaurant, the EIRIANFA, is to be introduced this year on the Llangollen Canal, based at Ellesmere.

 © G P Hamer 5 March 1989

# TRIP OUT

**April 1989**

After much delay, the ferry companies have announced the names of the seven ships which apparently do not meet the 1980 stability rules which are being imposed as a result of the HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE disaster. Within three years, the DARNIA, EARL GRANVILLE, EARL HAROLD, PRIDE OF CANTERBURY, PRIDE OF HYTHE, ST OLA and TYNWALD will have to withdrawn or rebuilt. The odd thing is that the HERALD was built in 1980 and complied with these rules. Instead of bringing other ships "up" to this standard, would it not be more logical to examine where the 1980 rules need amending ? That of course is not likely to happen because the car ferry companies would have to spend money rebuilding their newest ships.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL resumes on 28 April after a refit, with a sailing from Rye to Folkestone; she spends the next three days on the Thames Estuary, then two days at Ipswich before moving north.

NORTH EAST

British Waterways Board The FAIR MAIDEN has been sold and the Board no longer runs a passenger vessel in the North East.

D & B Tulley, Sheffield The VENTURE was sold to become the HEATHER SPRAY at Gloucester, and trips from Sheffield have ceased. The owners hope to resume after redevelopment of Sheffield Basin is completed, but this will not be before 1991.

EAST ANGLIA

W J & J P Haines, Overy Staithe The business and the ROSEMARY IRENE have been sold to Mr W K Scoles; trips to Scolt Head resume next month.

J E Knight, Great Yarmouth The GOLDEN GALLEON has been sold to Pleasure Steamers, but will continue to run 2-hour Broads cruises as before.

THAMES

Services between Westminster, Tower and Greenwich resumed their summer frequencies on 20 March, and upriver services to Kew and Hampton Court resumed at Easter. Fares have been increased and Westminster-Greenwich, for example, is now £4 return.

Kingswear Castle Excursions There are sailings on 28 and 29 April when the KINGSWEAR CASTLE will connect with the BALMORAL, passengers being transferred between the two vessels off Sheerness. Regular Sunday afternoon Medway cruises resume on 14 May.

SOUTH COAST

R C Greenslade, Poole, has bought the GAY QUEEN from Mr Wilson of Rothesay, and she will be renamed ALICE-MARIE to join the PAMMYANN on cruises round Poole Harbour. The GAY QUEEN had spent all her life at Rothesay and is a near-sister of the MAID OF THE FORTH of Southend, originally the MAID OF BUTE of Rothesay.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Weymouth Maritime Services Bookings for the new service are being handled by Sealink at Weymouth Quay.

Emeraude Lines The TRIDENT catamarans are scheduled to run from St-Malo between 17 March and 5 November, with two craft from 28 April to 10 September; Jersey, Sark and Guernsey are served. Granville services run from 25 March to 24 September. The SOLIDOR is to be replaced this month by the Danish LANGELAND II which will become the SOLIDOR II; she was built in 1977, measures 1500 grt, is 230 ft long and carries 600 passengers and 90 cars. She will serve only St Helier as there are no direct sailings to Guernsey.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Dart Pleasure Craft have bought the catamaran HERM TRIDENT II from Guernsey and she will be renamed KINGSWEAR BELLE for the Dartmouth-Kingswear ferry. Her passenger capacity will be 227.

F & B Boat Co, St Mawes Formerly based at Kingston-on-Thames, the owner Mr Balcomb has taken over the LOOK AHEAD II and began running cruises and angling trips at Easter.

Padstow Boating Co The TRI STAR is expected to be sold and is unlikely to be running at Padstow this year.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

South Glamorgan County Council THE LEWIS ALEXANDER, a new 40-ft boat to carry about 48 passengers, has been ordered to serve the island of Flat Holm from Barry. Its main function will be to take school parties and the like.

WEST WALES

R H & M A Crockford, Tenby, have bought the VIKING SAGA from Young & Lewis. The ENTERPRISE is to be sold.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Bickerline, Worcester The LYN has been sold to Severn Leisure and replaced by the MARIANNE from Cobh, Ireland.

Severn Leisure, owners of the CONWAY CASTLE of Upton, have bought the narrowboat LYN to offer trips from Tewkesbury.

G Wilkes, Ironbridge, has ceased operating the KATHRYN and no trips are available on the River Severn at Ironbridge.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The TYNWALD will have to be withdrawn in the next three years. She was due to be chartered to the Steam Packet from Sealink until 1995. Turnover in 1988 was £18.22 million (£18.36 million in 1987) and pre-tax profit was £3.139 million (£2.551 million).

# TRIP OUT

**May 1989**

The new guide to the passenger boat services of the British Isles, 'Trip Out 1989/90', is the biggest-yet, with 101 pages. Copies should be ready later this month and all subscribers will of course be sent one. Some of the changes recorded below are incorporated in the booklet, but others are not.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL's sailings from Rye and on the Thames and Orwell were cancelled owing to problems encountered in her drydocking. Her next sailing is due on 13 May on the east coast of Scotland. The schedule of both ships' sailings will apparently be available shortly.

NORTH EAST

Richardson & Simpson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE opened her season at Easter after a refit at Paull on the Humber. She now has a fixed roof over her after deck, with removable side windows.

THAMES

The German DUBURG has recently arrived in London, having been bought to run from Tower Pier. She was built in 1929, measures 125 grt, is 80 ft long and can carry 150 passengers. She has operated on both the North Sea and Baltic coasts of Germany, but for the past two years has been at Flensburg on the Baltic near the Danish border. Her top deck, previously open, is being enclosed before she starts running on the Thames.

Beta Boats The Tower-Barrier service will be operated by the BETA III again this season; last year she was renamed DAWN LOUISE and ran from Richmond for A E Collier, but the new name was apparently not officially approved.

Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society To mark the reopening of the Basingstoke Canal, the JOHN PINKERTON is making a special 2-day cruise from Odiham to Woking on 1-2 June. Fares including overnight accommodation and meals start at £110.25 (105 guineas).

Pewsey Vale Charter Cruises are running the new 65-ft SARAH DAVEY on the Kennet & Avon Canal from Wootton Rivers (west of Crofton). Public cruises (11/2 hrs) leave at 1400 on most Sunday afternoons.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK A fourth ferry for the Fishbourne service has been ordered from Cochrane's of Selby, builders of the ST CECILIA, at a cost of £7 million. She is due to join her three sisters next summer.

Hurst Castle Ferry & Cruises The SOLENT ROSE has been advertised for sale for £20 000 plus VAT.

Needles Pleasure Cruises The RAMBLIN' ROSE, new last year, is 50 ft long and carries 94 passengers. She replaced the YARMOUTH ROSE which has been sold and no longer has a passenger certificate. Trips are no longer offered from Yarmouth, but the boats are based there and a single trip from Alum Bay to Yarmouth is offered at the end of the day's trips to the Needles.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The ROZEL took 1000 passengers on a day trip from Poole to Cherbourg on 21 March.

Condor A 160-ft "wave-piercing" catamaran has been ordered at a cost of £5 million from Aluminium Shipbuilders of Portsmouth for delivery next April. Designed by International Catamarans of Australia, it will carry 450 passengers and will replace the two hydrofoils on the Weymouth services. Four engines producing a total of 9000 bhp will give a speed of 35 knots.

Emeraude Lines The SOLIDOR II made her first trip to Jersey on about 21 April. The SOLIDOR has been sold and is apparently returning to Scandinavia.

Weymouth Maritime Services The ST JULIEN runs five times weekly from 5 May to 3 October. She leaves Weymouth at 2330 on Mondays and Wednesdays for Guernsey, Jersey and Weymouth (due 1845), at 2330 on Tuesdays and Fridays for Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Weymouth (1845), and at 0800 on Sundays for Alderney, Guernsey, Jersey and Weymouth (0600). She thus has a mixture of day and night crossings and day excursions are not possible. Single fares from Weymouth start at £27 and 4-day returns are available from £37.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside PTE This year's charters along the Manchester Ship Canal by Co-op Holidaycare are on 16 September from Liverpool and on the 17th from Manchester. Fares are £12 single or £14.85 including return by train or coach.

MISCELLANY

The former Red Funnel Southampton tug/tender GATCOMBE, built in 1960 and sold to Bermuda as the BERMUDIAN in 1969, has returned to this country and is apparently lying on the south coast. She is being advertised for sale by west country brokers who quote her passenger capacity as 600.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 May 1989

# TRIP OUT

**June 1989**

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Waverley Excursions published timetables of the season's sailings in May. The BALMORAL's refit was prolonged by a need to realign the engines after the hull had been distorted during replating work. She is now in Northern Ireland and stays in the Irish Sea until the 18th, with trips from Workington and the Isle of Man. She returns to the Bristol Channel from 21 to 28 June, with a weekend visit to Padstow, St Ives and Penzance on 24-26 June. She serves Liverpool, Llandudno and Menai Bridge between 1 and 4 July, before resuming on the Bristol Channel on the 6th. The WAVERLEY is on the Bristol Channel until 17 June, then has a cruise from Milford Haven on the 18th before returning to Scotland. She "reopened" Clevedon Pier on 27 May and both ships make many calls there during the season.

NORTH EAST

Regal Launches, Hull This new operator is starting trips from Hull to the Humber Bridge in a 37-ft 48-passenger launch named REGAL STAR. Departure point in the city is the Admiral's Steps at Victoria Pier.

THAMES

Greenwich Pier was struck by a ship in the first week of May, and Thames Water declared it to be unsafe to use. There is no indication of a date for reopening. Boat services from Westminster, Charing Cross, Tower and the Barrier use Masthouse Terrace Pier on the other side of the river, reached from Greenwich by pedestrian tunnel.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The KINGSWEAR CASTLE offers trips from Gravesend on 24 and 25 June then goes to London on the 26th, staying there until 1 July when she has a cruise from London Bridge City Pier and HMS BELFAST to the Barrier

Westminster Passenger Services (Upriver) The CONNAUGHT was still being refitted in May, and was expected to begin her season on about 10 June.

French Brothers, Runnymede Public trips follow a similar pattern to recent years', but the Hampton Court service runs only from 5 June to 7 September. The Runnymede-Windsor service runs until 24 September.

SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry The PORTSEA PRINCESS has been offered for sale. She was bought four years ago from Sandown as the CYRIL LOTTE and has been used for harbour trips.

Red Funnel Ferries plan to order a new ship to carry 800 passengers and up to 120 cars; it would replace either the COWES CASTLE or NORRIS CASTLE in 1991.

Southern Coastcrafts Public excursions include a day trip from Hythe to East Cowes (with coach tours on the island) on certain Tuesdays, trips to Cowes and the Hamble River on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and a new Sunday trip to the Hamble River on 25 June and 30 July.

Croson The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE opened the Bournemouth season on 22 May and was joined by the POOLE BELLE on the 28th. Sailings from Bournemouth are at 1000 to Yarmouth (Mon to Fri), 1045 to Swanage or (Mon and Fri) Poole, 1230 round the Bay, 1415 to the Dorset Lakes, 1600 to Swanage or (Mon and Fri) Poole, 2000 evening cruise (not Sats, mid-June to late-Aug). The Isle of Wight trip is offered from Swanage (depart 0900) on Mondays and Fridays.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Weymouth Maritime Services The ST JULIEN arrived at Weymouth on 2 May ready to start her service on the 5th.

Emeraude Lines The new car ferry carries the name SOLIDOR 2, though she is advertised as the SOLIDOR II.

## IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Completion of the rebuilding of the LADY OF MANN was delayed, and promotional visits to ports including Peel and Londonderry planned for May were cancelled. She was due to resume service on 26 May.

## MISCELLANY

The tug/tender BERMUDIAN (see last issue) is now named TOPSHAM and is believed to be lying in South Devon.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 4 June 1989

# TRIP OUT

**July 1989**

The most remarkable news of the past month is the take over bid for Red Funnel by Sally Line. The Southampton company perhaps deserved it, having rather stagnated in recent years - their newest car ferry is 15 years old - yet is Sally really the right owner ? They have no experience of this type of ferry service, even in their Scandinavian home, while their empire already includes an odd assortment of ferry services in Scandinavia and a Caribbean cruise ship.

Also in the news has been the long-awaited decision to prosecute those responsible for the HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE disaster. It is hard on the crew members who have to suffer a further ordeal, but it is important that those responsible for the running of the company are brought to justice: it is the best way of ensuring that no ferry company makes such mistakes again.

Geoffrey Hamer

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THAMES

A new temporary pontoon has been moored at Greenwich and boats have resumed calls there. The London Piers have been transferred from the Thames Water Authority to the Port of London Authority.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer sails to Whitstable on 22 July for the Oyster Fair.

Livett's Launches, Tower Pier The BRUNEL was on charter at the Henley Royal Regatta at the end of June, apparently the only boat from central London there.

Turk Launches, Kingston The YARMOUTH BELLE has been completely rebuilt with a new deck saloon, a saloon below deck, and mock side paddle wheels. She was at Henley for the Regatta, along with the EMPRESS OF INDIA, NEW WINDSOR CASTLE and RICHMOND ROYALE.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK The SOUTHSEA has been moved to lay-up in the River Fal.

Red Funnel Ferries Sally Line has made a takeover bid worth £20.87 million, offering 205p for each Red Funnel share. The Southampton company has rejected the offer. Sally is owned by Swedish and Finnish companies, and runs the Ramsgate ferry terminal and the service from there to Dunkerque Ouest.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

HAG Marine Services Apart from Goury to Alderney trips, the SEA FOX also sails to Guernsey and Sark from Diélette (north of Carteret). On most Fridays until late September, she offers a day trip from Alderney to Guernsey.

Seatours (Jersey) The operators of the PRIDE OF THE BAY are now named Coastal Cruises Ltd. They offer a cruise from St Helier along the island's south coast to off Corbiere Lighthouse at 1130 and 1430 daily except Sundays; fare £5.50.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Water Folk Craft, Brecon, run the 42-passenger DRAGON-FLY on the Brecon & Abergavenny Canal. Public trips are at 1500 on Wednesdays and Sundays. The business, run by Mr A J Picken, was formerly based on the Coombe Hill Canal in Gloucestershire.

NORTH WEST

D W Jones, Beaumaris, trading as Beaumaris Marine Services, operates the 35-passenger CERISMAR, built in 1987. She offers 1-hour cruises to Puffin Island or to land at Bangor Pier, 20-min cruises in the Bay, and angling trips.

Hesketh Launches, Fleetwood The CONTENT, bought from Plymouth two years ago, has been sold and is now in London.

MISCELLANY

The former paddle steamer LINCOLN CASTLE is now open as a restaurant in Grimsby Docks. To get her into the Alexandra Dock, the funnel, masts, bridge and paddle boxes were temporarily removed.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 July 1989

# TRIP OUT

**August 1989**

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Waverley Excursions The BALMORAL continues on the Bristol Channel till 30 August, then goes to the South Coast for charters and, on 4 September, a public trip from Southampton to Yarmouth, before returning to Scotland. The WAVERLEY starts her South Coast sailings on 1 September and also has a trip to Yarmouth on the 4th.

NORTH EAST

Regal Launches, Hull The REGAL STAR was bought on the Thames and fitted out by her new owner, Miss Sandra Wain. She is running from Goole inland to Pollington, Knottingly and Barnby Dun.

THAMES

Invicta Line Cruises have bought the CORAL STAR III from Mr Mann of Arbroath and she is currently laid-up at Rochester. Built as the POOLE BELLE, she has been the GROSVENOR HOSTESS at Swanage, TARA at Dublin and CORAL STAR III at Paignton, Cromarty and Broughty Ferry. The company hopes to offer a service on the Medway between a new pier opened this year at Rochester and Chatham.

Kingswear Castle Excursions The steamer makes a trip to land at Sheerness on 19 August, and upriver to Aylesford, landing at Snodland, on 2 September.

Sealink UK The CATHERINE, laid-up and cannibalized for spare parts in recent years, has been sold and is apparently to become a floating restaurant; she was at Strood in early July.

Meridian Line Cruises The SWANAGE QUEEN was slightly damaged on the evening of 4 July when she was in collision with the Polish sailing vessel DAR SZCZECINA.

Beta Boats To cope with an apparent increase in traffic on the Tower-Barrier service, the THAMES SOVEREIGN of Fastwing Travel is currently running instead of the BETA III.

Livett's Launches have opened a new service from Tower Pier to a new pier at Butler's Wharf, just below Tower Bridge, to serve the new Design Museum.

Thames Line The service has been extended downriver to Greenland Pier and Greenwich; calls at Cherry Garden Pier have ceased.

Catamaran Cruisers recently celebrated the company's 21st birthday. The VALULLA struck Westminster Bridge following engine failure in the early morning of 23 July; ten of the 185 passengers suffered slight injuries.

Tidal Cruises The ZODIAC has been sold and called at Newhaven on 25 July. She had spent her whole life in London, and came into Tidal Cruises' fleet in 1987 from London Launches.

Colliers Launches, Richmond The FLEET ADMIRAL has been advertised for sale for £15 000.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries Very few shareholders have accepted Sally Line's takeover offer, and the closing date has been deferred to 22 August.

WEST OF ENGLAND

M D Barrow The DEVON PRINCESS II has been renamed TORBAY PRINCESS; she is based at Torquay and offers a day trip to the River Dart. The DEVON PRINCESS III does an afternoon cruise from Torquay to the Dart, with a trip from Exmouth apparently only once weekly. Mr Barrow no longer has a telephone number at Exmouth, and tickets are sold at Torquay by M R & R J Ould, trading as Neptune Cruises.

Western Lady Ferry Service The PRIDE OF THE DART, operated last season by Mr J Bolus, is this season offering a day cruise from Torquay and Brixham to the River Dart, promoted jointly by the Western Lady Ferry Service and other Torquay operators. The Western Lady vessels have run only the Torquay-Brixham service in the last three seasons.

Padstow Boating Co As expected, the TRI STAR has been sold after 17 seasons at Padstow. The firm runs only speedboat trips and the only excursion vessel at Padstow is Mr Chapman's JUBILEE QUEEN.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG is making trips from Barnstaple to Lundy on Sundays 6 and 20 August.

MISCELLANY

The TOPSHAM, formerly Red Funnel's tug/tender GATCOMBE, is lying off Dartmouth where she is registered.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 3 August 1989

# TRIP OUT

**September 1989**

The tragic sinking of the MARCHIONESS has brought marine safety into the news headlines again. The media have associated it with the HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE, though the circumstances are quite different. The last major disaster on the Thames was the sinking of the PRINCESS ALICE in 1878, which is not a bad safety record by any standards. No passenger vessel, however safe, is likely to survive being run down by a much bigger ship. A fool-proof system must be devised to control the movements of ships. The technology is already there - all the boats have radios; used fully, they could prevent another tragedy.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was scheduled to make a charter trip from Torquay to Weymouth on 31 August. She continues on the South Coast till 19 September, but without calls at Sandown. She serves Kent, Essex and the Thames until 8 October, then sails on the Bristol Channel on 13-15 October.

NORTH EAST

Kielder Water Cruises are seeking a vessel to carry 60 to 100 passengers.

Mirfield Boat Yard The PRINCESS MARY has been advertised for sale for £10 000 with delivery next month. She has run from Mirfield for six seasons.

EAST ANGLIA

Pennant Cruises is the name used to advertise cruises from Potter Heigham and by the former Pleasure Steamers business from Great Yarmouth. The GOLDEN GALLEON makes her usual cruises from Yarmouth, while the QUEEN OF THE BROADS makes day trips from there. From Potter Heigham, trips are offered by the waterbuses LEA MAID and CLAIREST, and the ELIZABETH SIMPSON is apparently available for charter trips.

THAMES

Tidal Cruises The MARCHIONESS, on an all-night charter from Charing Cross, was struck and sunk by the 1475-grt sand dredger BOWBELLE at about 0200 on 20 August above Southwark Bridge. 51 people, including the skipper Mr Stephen Faldo, died and 86 were rescued. The wreck was raised later in the day and towed on the 23rd to Greenwich where it is expected to be scrapped. The BOWBELLE was undamaged and has returned to service after a brief dry-docking at Chatham. Additional safety measures have been imposed and vessels must now report their passenger numbers by radio after sailing. Trade on the river has suffered and many evening parties have been cancelled. The MARCHIONESS was built as a steamboat in 1923 by Salters at Oxford and is believed to have the same hull as their HAMPTON COURT. She had spent her whole life in London, taking part in the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940. She had been owned by Tidal Cruises since 1979 and they had added saloons on her foredeck and upper deck. They now have a fleet of four vessels; the ZODIAC, sold in July, has gone to run from Plymouth.

Lower Thames & Medway Passenger Boat Co, Gravesend, has been formed to run the PRINCESS POCAHONTAS, formerly the FREYA II of Flensburg on the Baltic coast of Germany. Built in 1962 as the LABOE for service at Kiel, she is 110 ft long, measures 151 grt and could carry 300 passengers. She is the fourth continental vessel to come to the Thames in the past two years. The owners hope to run to Greenwich and to Southend, but she has not yet had a British passenger certificate. Princess Pocahontas was a Red Indian who was brought to this country but died in 1617 at Gravesend where she is buried.

SOUTH COAST

After a fire in the amusement arcade on Sandown Pier on the night of 26 August, the landing stage has been closed. Mursell & Kemp's ISLAND ENTERPRISE and the WAVERLEY are using Ryde Pier instead.

Red Funnel Ferries Sally Line made an increased offer on 22 August, valuing the company at nearly £24 million, but on 1 September, Associated British Ports announced their takeover bid valuing Red Funnel at £27 million. This offer is being recommended by Red Funnel's directors. ABP, formerly the British Transport Docks Board, runs the port of Southampton.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Weymouth Maritime Services The ST JULIEN will sail five times weekly from October to March, with three trips to Cherbourg (one of which continues to Guernsey) and two to Jersey and Guernsey, with a fortnightly call at Alderney.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Padstow Boating Co The TRI STAR has gone to run from Ullapool.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

S Wide, Bristol The AVON VENTURER is making a trip on 23 September from Sharpness to Gloucester, with connecting coaches from Penarth and Bristol.

WEST WALES

M A & S Crockford, Tenby The ENTERPRISE has been sold to a buyer at Goole and left Tenby early this summer. Built for the Falmouth-Truro service, she has been at Tenby since about 1963. The Crockfords still run the VIKING SAGA in association with Mr Truman's ST KEYNE.

MISCELLANY

The BEN-MY-CHREE, laid up at Birkenhead since 1985, has been sold to Spanish breakers and left on 16 August in tow for Santander where she arrived on the 21st.

 © G P Hamer 5 September 1989

# TRIP OUT

**October 1989**

No one will need reminding that the past summer has brought good weather and hence good business to pleasure boat operators. It has been one of those exceptional seasons to rank with 1975, 1976 and 1983. In London, it has apparently been the sunniest since 1929. The tragedy of the MARCHIONESS has cast a shadow over the closing weeks of the summer, and we must hope that public confidence can be restored; next year is unlikely to bring weather to match this year's.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her south coast sailings on 17 September, but sailed from Southampton instead of Worthing because of bad weather. She is now on the Thames. The BALMORAL has returned to Bristol for the winter after completing her season in Scotland.

NORTH EAST

Regal Launches, Goole The REGAL STAR which entered service this year, has been offered for sale for £41 750.

THAMES

Lower Thames & Medway Passenger boat Co The PRINCESS POCAHONTAS was issued with a temporary Class VI certificate for 100 passengers on 6 September and began running day trips from Gravesend to Southend at weekends, with 45-min cruises from Southend in the afternoon. The owners hope to run shopping trips to London this autumn.

Tidal Cruises After the MARCHIONESS was partly rebuilt to assist the inquiry into her sinking, her remains are being cut-up at Piper's Wharf, Greenwich

Westminster Party Boats The business has changed hands.

Voyager Clubs THE EDWARDIAN has been based in London this year and not at Hampton; she is moored with the ELIZABETHAN at Westminster.

Thames Cruises, Radcot The business, including the narrow boat BATTERSEA, has been offered for sale for £25 000.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries Following the agreed take-over bid by Associated British Ports, Sally Line has withdrawn its offer.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

British Channel Island Ferries The ROZEL struck an underwater object at St Peter Port on 26 September and sailed to Falmouth for repairs. She has been replaced by Brittany Ferries' ARMORIQUE, brought out of lay-up at St-Malo.

Weymouth Maritime Services The ST JULIEN began serving Cherbourg after Sealink's EARL GRANVILLE was withdrawn for repairs after striking rocks at Cherbourg on 19 August. The ST JULIEN suffered a generator fault off Cherbourg on 15 September and eventually arrived over 4 hours late.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways The DEVONIUN will continue to offer a weekly trip to Jersey in November and December, and some sailings to Guernsey.

S&H Marine Services, Torquay THE BELLE has been advertised for sale for £16 000 plus VAT.

WEST WALES

N Hadley, Saundersfoot The MY QUEEN II is being replaced and has been put on the market for £19 500.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Willow Wren Cruises, Braunston The business and the narrow boat WATER OUZEL have been advertised for sale.

Wolverhampton Passenger Boat Services The STAFFORD has been advertised for sale.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MONA'S QUEEN was chartered for an excursion from Cherbourg to Portsmouth on 2 September for the start of the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race. She began running from Portsmouth to Cherbourg on 5 September in place of the damaged EARL GRANVILLE.

MISCELLANY

The TOPSHAM, formerly Red Funnel's GATCOMBE, laid-up at Dartmouth, has been resold, apparently for day cruises in Greece.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 5 October 1989

# TRIP OUT

**November 1989**

This month, 'Trip Out' includes the annual list of the UK's top ten excursion operators, arranged by gross tonnage and by passenger capacity. Only those vessels used last summer mainly for pleasure trips are included.Last year's positions are in brackets. Changes include a reduction in Tidal Cruises' fleet following the sale of the ZODIAC (the MARCHIONESS is included in the figures), a fall for Plymouth Boat Cruises after the sale of the EASTERN BELLE, and a rise for Turks with their acquisition of the YARMOUTH BELLE. The figures for George Wheeler Launches include the WESTMINSTER and WITHEYCOMBE which were chartered back from their new owners.

| | GROSS TONNAGE | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Waverley Excursions | 1428 |
| 2(2) | Merseyside PTE | 1234 |
| 3(3) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1026 |
| 4(4) | Woods River Services | 811 |
| 5(5) | George Wheeler | 765 |
| 6(6) | Windermere I S Co | 622 |
| 7(8) | Blue Funnel/Wightline | 525 |
| 8(9) | Voyager Clubs | 487 |
| 9(10) | Salter Bros | 453 |
| 10(7) | Tidal Cruises | 451 |

| | PASSENGER CAPACITY | |
|---|---|---|
| 1(1) | Salter Bros | 2153 |
| 2(2) | Waverley Excursions | 2060 |
| 3(3) | Catamaran Cruisers | 1883 |
| 4(4) | George Wheeler | 1846 |
| 5(5) | Windermere I S Co | 1632 |
| 6(7) | Bowness Bay Boating | 1460 |
| 7(9) | Dart Pleasure Craft | 1209 |
| 8(8) | Tidal Cruises | 1106 |
| 9(6) | Woods River Services | 1074 |
| 10(-) | Turk Launches | 1055 |

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Sealink UK To fight off last summer's take-over bid by Stena Line, the parent company Sea Containers has announced that some assets are to be sold; these include Sealink's Isle of Wight services and ferries, the ports of Harwich and Heysham, its share in the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co and eight ships - the cargo-only CAMBRIDGE FERRY, CHANNEL ENTENTE (ex-SAINT-ELOI), EARL GODWIN, EARL GRANVILLE, EARL HAROLD, EARL WILLIAM, ST BRENDAN and TYNWALD.

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Thames sailings and the weekend of 13-15 October on the Bristol Channel.

NORTH EAST

Kielder Water Cruises The OCEAN DAWN, a glass fibre boat originally built to run from Ramsgate, has been advertised for sale for £30 000.

THAMES

Summer services in London ended on 29 October. Winter sailings follow the usual pattern with sailings from both Westminster and Charing Cross to Greenwich via the Tower, and services to the Thames Barrier from both Westminster and Greenwich.

Thames Line The LONDON BROADCASTING COMPANY hit Southwark Bridge at 0855 on 25 October after suffering engine trouble. She suffered little damage but ten of the 30 passengers were slightly injured and one needed hospital treatment.

Turk Launches, Kingston Of the three vessels taken over last winter from the F&B Boat Co, only the YARMOUTH BELLE has been used. The PRINCESS MARINA was sold and is now with D&T Scenic's at Reading.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries came under the control of Associated British Ports in mid-October.

Edwards & Co, Hayling Island The HAYLING ENTERPRISE has been advertised for sale for £30 000.

Croson The BOURNEMOUTH BELLE finished on 28 September and the POOLE BELLE was due to end her season on 28 October. The associated Bolson shipyard at Poole may have to close at the end of the year as Poole Harbour Commissioners want the land to expand the cross-channel ferry terminal.

R A Hale, Poole The departure point at Poole Quay was changed in the summer from Custom House Steps to Fish Shambles Steps, already used by Harveys; the council has provided new ticket offices for both operators.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Weymouth Maritime Services ceased operating on 18 October after the ST JULIEN was repossessed by her Norwegian owners. The Weymouth firm hopes to charter another ship to resume sailings.

Condor is continuing St-Malo services until 7 January.

Emeraude Lines The SOLIDOR spent the summer laid-up at St-Malo despite a reported sale to Scandinavia. In October she was reported sold to Benito Buono of Ischia for service in the Bay of Naples.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Torbay Seaways In November and December, the DEVONIUN offers Wednesday night sailings to Guernsey (via Alderney on 7 and 21 Nov, and 12 and 19 Dec) until 19 December, returning the following afternoon, and Friday night sailings to Jersey, returning the next night (except on 23 and 30 December when she returns by day via Guernsey).

Bryher Boat Services The NEMO has been offered for sale.

NORTH WEST

Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port The SHAD was replaced as the Museum's trip boat in the spring. A new steel 72-passenger vessel, the CENTAUR, was built at the Museum this year by Ian Kemp, and runs half-hour cruises.

Wyre Borough Council The Fleetwood to Knott End ferry service was operated this year by Bird's Sea Fishing. Their contract finished at the end of October and plans for next season are not known.

MISCELLANY

LA DAME DE SERK, which ran between Guernsey and Sark until 1975 and was then converted to a three-masted sailing vessel, has been advertised for sale for £195 000.

 © G P Hamer 7 November 1989

# TRIP OUT

**December 1989**

Recent weeks have brought news of two major takeovers. Sea Containers has sold Sealink's Isle of Wight fleet for a remarkably large sum. The services were evidently very profitable - it was significant that Sea Containers had invested in new IoW ships, rather than new cross-channel ferries. The sum now obtained is considerably more than the amount paid for the whole of Sealink in 1984, and is four times what ABP paid for Red Funnel this autumn. The new owners presumably recognize a lucrative business.

Rather more savoury is French Brothers' takeover of Windsor Boats, giving them one of the country's largest excursion fleets. The planned restoration to steam of the former Salter Bros NUNEHAM will help to keep the fleet in the public eye next year, and will *preserve a piece of Thames history. Keith, Geoff and Chris French have worked hard to build their business and deserve our congratulations and best wishes.

I should like to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Geoffrey Hamer

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THAMES

Lower Thames & Medway Passenger Boat Co The PRINCESS POCAHONTAS has begun running shopping trips from Gravesend to London. On Wednesdays and Saturdays from 29 November to 23 December, she leaves Gravesend at 0900 for Charing Cross.

French Brothers, Runnymede, in November announced the take over of the Windsor Boat Co and their six vessels. The Windsor business was founded in 1884 by Mr Arthur Jacobs, and ownership remained with his descendants, the Pickin family; it was incorporated as Arthur Jacobs Ltd in 1943 and was renamed Windsor Boat Co Ltd in 1978. Their largest vessel was the NEW WINDSOR CASTLE, owned from 1923 to 1972. French Brothers started trading in 1978 and last season ran six vessels. The Windsor fleet is being repainted in French Brothers' colours, but will not be renamed. The NUNEHAM, out of use since 1980, is being restored and should be in service next season with the Sissons-built steam engine from Salters' OXFORD and a new coal-fired boiler; she is to be used for a variety of public and charter trips.

SOUTH COAST

Sealink UK On 28 November Sea Containers announced the sale of the Isle of Wight services for £107.5 million to Radiant Shipping Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Yattendon Investment Trust, one time owners of the 'Birmingham Post'. The present management will continue and will be offered shares in the company.

Red Funnel Ferries has ordered two catamarans from FBM Marine of Cowes at a total cost of £3.5 million. They will be 98 ft long and will carry 120 passengers at 32 knots. Delivery is due in January and March 1991 when they will replace the two oldest hydrofoils.

Edwards & Co, Hayling Island The HAYLING ENTERPRISE is being replaced by a new vessel, being built with a 75% grant from Hampshire County Council.

M G Pearce, Portsmouth A new 60-ft two-deck vessel to carry 150 passengers is being built.
The Solent Steam Packet Ltd has been formed to preserve the former sludge carrier SHIELDHALL and hopes to offer passenger sailings in the steamship. Shares are being offered to the public.
Harveys Pleasure Boats The MAID OF FROME was chartered by Dorset County Council from 30 October to 12 November to run a free ferry service from Poole Quay to Hamworthy while the bridge was closed for repairs.
Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The service was suspended for annual overhaul from 21 November to 5 December. The Company is planning a new vessel carrying 46 cars to replace the present one by the winter of 1991/92.

CHANNEL ISLANDS
Weymouth Maritime Services The ST JULIEN, repossessed in October and taken to Drammen near Oslo, has been sold to Jens Carlson for service from Sweden to Bornholm as the ÖSTERSJÖN; she was delivered to Stockholm on 20 November.

WEST OF ENGLAND
K J Bridge, Plymouth, is the owner of the DEVON BELLE, bought from Portsmouth in 1988. She is now on the market again - described as "an end of season bargain" at £34 000.
Isles of Scilly Steamship Co has bought the Norwegian coaster GRY MARITHA (1981, 149 grt) for the winter service; she began running on 6 November. Next season, the SCILLONIAN III runs from 7 April to 27 October, with a double trip on Saturdays from 26 May to 1 September.

IRISH SEA
Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Next year, the Liverpool service runs from 12 to 18 April, on 5 May, then from 17 May to 27 September, with five sailings a week in the peak season. Fleetwood trips are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in July and August, with a day trip to Fleetwood from Douglas on 5 July. The Stranraer service has been withdrawn and there are no scheduled sailings to Scotland.

MISCELLANY
The former IoW ferry CUTHRED, laid-up on the Tyne, has been advertised for sale for £240 000. Plans for her conversion to a mock Mississippi stern wheeler are available to the buyer.

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