

# TRIP OUT

**January 2020**

2020 is the first year of US ownership of our biggest passenger boat operator, so we might see how City Cruises changes under new owner Hornblower. In another American connection, there are special events to mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers in the MAYFLOWER from London via Southampton, Dartmouth and Plymouth to America.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The boiler appeal reached its target of £2.3 million in mid-December.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Nexus The ferry service resumed on 21 December after a break of six weeks for repairs to the North Shields landing.

## EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich Public trips start on 8 April. Two unusual trips are a summer solstice cruise on 21 June at 0345 to see the sun rise, and a cruise on 12 August to land at Shotley.

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services The ferry will run from 1 April to 1 November.

## THAMES

French Brothers Two-hour cruises from Windsor will run from 4 April to 1 November, Runnymede-Windsor from 4 April to 27 September, Maidenhead-Windsor from 19 May to 12 September, and Runnymede to Hampton Court from 22 June to 3 September. Short trips from Runnymede in the LUCY FISHER will run from 6 April to 29 September and will stop at Runnymede Pleasure Grounds as well as French Brothers' Boathouse.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST FAITH left Dunkerque on 16 November and sailed to Southampton to complete her refit.

Red Funnel Ferries In a case before Southampton Magistrates' Court, Captain Ian Drummond has been acquitted of charges relating to a collision between the RED FALCON and a motor yacht in September 2018.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER had a problem with her internal ramp when she arrived in Jersey on 23 December and some vehicles were trapped on board. She continued running for freight until 31 December when she went to Poole for repairs. The ARROW has been chartered to carry freight from Portsmouth.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co The ST MAWES CASTLE offered trips from Kingsbridge and Salcombe between 18 December and 4 January. After a refit, she will resume trips in April renamed LADY MARY.

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Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The MALI ROSE has been sold to Atløy Båt & Marina and has returned to Norway as the SYKLUS. She was purchased by the Steamship Co in 2016 as a replacement for the cargo ship GRY MARITHA but was found to be unsuitable.

#### NORTH WEST

Jones the Boats, Trevor The business has closed and the last trips over the Pontcysyllte aqueduct were on 3 November. The Canal & River Trust is not renewing the lease on the base at Trevor and Peter Jones is retiring and selling the boats.

Anglo Welsh, Trevor The hire cruiser operator already has a base at Trevor and has bought the PENNINE MOONRAKER to run trips across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Saddleworth Canal Cruises, Uppermill The PENNINE MOONRAKER did not operate in 2019 and has now left Uppermill, so the trips on the Huddersfield Canal have ceased.

Windermere Lake Cruises The SWIFT was lowered into the lake on 11 December using two cranes. She is expected to start crew training at Easter and to begin service in the summer.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The one-boat winter timetable continues until 28 March, then a three-boat service runs until 1 November. The full summer timetable needing four boats is from 23 May to 6 September.

#### OBITUARY

Ed Langley died suddenly in December at the age of 69. He was behind the conversion of Salter's STREATLEY to steam, and later ran the HENLEY in London from 2002 until last year.

# TRIP OUT

**February 2020**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was towed from Glasgow to Greenock on 14 January. Her funnels have been removed ready for the installation of new boilers and generators.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE was dry-docked in Hull as usual and sailed back to Bridlington on 23 January.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Trips from Chatham to Southend start on 10 April. Rochester Pier is still closed so there will be no short cruises on the Medway. There will be no trips from Gravesend to Greenwich because of the cost of using Greenwich Pier.

Island Cruises The SPIRIT OF SHEPPEY's first trip of the season from Queenborough to Southend is on 25 April.

London Party Boats has to pay a fine and costs totaling £20 225 for unsafe operation of the JEWEL OF LONDON which damaged the police pier at Wapping late on the night of 13 December 2018. No passengers were aboard at the time and no crew were injured. The skipper was also fined.

Woods' Silver Fleet The company chairman Alan Woods was awarded an OBE in the new year honours.

Thames River Boats Sailings from Westminster to Kew, Richmond and Hampton Court are due to resume on 4 April.

French Brothers Steamboat cruises are advertised for every Sunday from 10 May to 27 September (except 5 July when the boats will be at Henley Regatta) and on Tuesdays from 4 June to 3 September.

Thames Steamers As usual, the ALASKA will be offering public trips from Bourne End on Bank Holiday weekends, 23-25 May and 29-31 August, and from Henley on 17-19 July.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Public trips are on weekends from 4 April to 27 September, daily in school holidays and on Sundays in October.

## SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry The SPIRIT OF PORTSMOUTH's summer cruise programme runs from 6 June to 9 September and includes four cruises to the Needles and Yarmouth, and eight to Lymington.

Wightlink There is a reduced one-boat service on the Portsmouth-Ryde route between 15 January and 3 March. The ST CLARE went to Dunkerque for refit on 25 January while a reduced two-ship service operated to Fishbourne. The ST FAITH returned to Portsmouth on 31 January.

Red Funnel Ferries The start of the summer timetable has been delayed by a week: the winter timetable, with a two-ship service to East Cowes, continues to 2 April, then the summer timetable runs until 2 November.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR RAPIDE went to Falmouth on 13 January for refit.

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Manche Iles Express Granville-Jersey sailings run from 26 March to 1 November, with most continuing to Sark or Guernsey. Carteret sailings are from 9 April to 4 October and Diélette from 2 April to 11 October. Trips to Alderney from Diélette or Guernsey are on 23 dates.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Greenway Ferry Sailings from Dartmouth run at weekends in winter and will be daily from 15 February to 1 November.

Plymouth Boat Trips Trips to Cotehele and Calstock are on 33 dates between 4 April and 29 October. Other trips are also similar to last year's, including the cruise to the River Lynher introduced last year.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III runs from 23 March to 8 November (not as stated in the October newssheet) with four sailings weekly in the early and late season and daily (except Sundays) from 6 April to 3 October. Sunday sailings are from 5 July to 13 September and there is a double trip on 1, 4 and 23 May, and on Saturdays from 25 July to 15 August.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet Avon Gorge cruises are on 51 dates from 7 March to 22 November. There are five trips to Bath.

Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust Restoration of the LORD RAGLAN (ex ENFYS) was completed in October when she was granted a certificate for 30 passengers. She offered some evening cruises from Goytre in December.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Severn Leisure Cruises, Upton-upon-Severn The CONWAY CASTLE will not be running this year and has been offered for sale by brokers for £239 000. Built for the River Dart Steamboat Co, she has run on the Severn since 1976. The company will continue running 12-passenger boats from Tewkesbury.

# TRIP OUT

**March 2020**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was moved into dry dock at Greenock on 2 March. Her season is expected to follow the usual pattern with the main Clyde season followed by visits to the Bristol Channel, South Coast and Thames.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

A & T Douglas, Seahouses The replacement for the SERENITY III is a 14-m catamaran from Blyth Workboats of Canvey Island, Essex. She is named SERENITY III and was launched in January.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Cruises to the Red Sand Towers are on various dates from Rochester, starting on 30 April, and from Southend, starting on 9 May.

Woolwich Ferry The ferry, run since 2013 by Briggs Marine, is to be run directly by Transport for London.

Thames River Sightseeing The summer timetable, with half-hourly sailings from Westminster to Greenwich, and cruises to the Thames Barrier, runs from 30 March to 2 November.

Bateaux London The HARMONY arrived back in London on 28 February after her refit in Lowestoft.

Woods' Silver Fleet To correct the last issue, Alan Woods is an MBE (member of the order of the British Empire) not an OBE.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Trips to Goring with a cruise towards Moulsoford are on Sundays 17 May, 28 June, 26 July, 23 August and 20 September. On Thursdays from 23 July to 20 August there is a return trip to Pangbourne, but there are no trips advertised to Beale Park this year.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The one-boat service between Portsmouth and Ryde continues to 13 March. On the Fishbourne route, a reduced timetable continues till 8 March, with two ships providing an hourly service. The ST CLARE left Dunkerque on 13 February after her refit. The VICTORIA OF WIGHT went to Portland on 19 February, for underwater survey then to Southampton the next day.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON was at Falmouth for refit from 6 to 19 February.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL has been awarded £6800 by the National Lottery's Heritage Fund for work so that she can burn diesel fuel rather than more-polluting fuel oil.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR RAPIDE left Falmouth on 6 February and went to Poole before returning to service from St-Malo.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co plans to buy the CORSAIRE DES ILES II from Compagnie Corsaire in St-Malo for £630 000 to replace the BON MARIN DE SERK and SARK BELLE. She was built in 2007 and ran from La Rochelle as the ORAZUR II before going to St-Malo in 2013. She is 23 m long and can carry 157 passengers at up to 19 knots. The SARK BELLE has been in service this winter and currently runs with the cargo ferry SARK VIKING while the SARK VENTURE has her refit.



CORSAIRE DES ILES II (from owner's website)

Jersey Bus & Boat Tours The JERSEY DUCHESS runs daily from  
4 April to 1 November

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Unusual coastal trips include day trips to Brixham Pirate Festival on 2 May, Torquay and the English Riviera Air Show on 6 and 7 June, Teignmouth carnival on 30 July, Sidmouth Air Show on 28 August, and Dartmouth Regatta on 29 August, National Trust cruises from Lyme Regis on 29 June, and cruises from Seaton on 28 June, 12 July and 26 August.

Western Lady Ferry Service The WESTERN LADY VI has been advertised for sale by brokers for £120 000.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Dartmouth-Totnes sailings are daily from 28 March to 31 October.

Tresco Boat Services The VOYAGER OF ST MARTIN'S made her last trips in September and has been sold, reportedly going to Ireland.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG returned to Bideford from Sharpness on 27 February.

Matthew of Bristol The MATTHEW will visit Dartmouth to play the part of the MAYFLOWER in a Grand River Pageant on 30 August.

#### NORTH WEST

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society The steamer went to Birkenhead for refit on 24 February, sharing Cammell Laird's dry dock with Caledonian MacBrayne's FINLAGGAN.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANANNAN went to Birkenhead on 25 February for dry docking.

#### MISCELLANY

In the west of Scotland, the SULA MHOR broke from her mooring at Plockton in the storm on the night of 8/9 February and was wrecked. She was the NEW PRINCESS MAUD on the Falmouth to St Mawes ferry before going to Scotland in 2006. The owner, Calum Mackenzie, is looking for a replacement.

# TRIP OUT

**April 2020**

Just a few weeks ago we were looking forward to spring and the chance to enjoy boat trips after weeks of storms and floods. Now the virus pandemic has brought normal life to a standstill with possible serious financial consequences for boat operators and shipping companies. Only a few essential ferry services are still operating and I have tried to indicate which these are.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was towed out of dry dock on 25 March and the two new boilers have since been lifted on board.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Nexus Since 23 March the ferry is running from 0715 to 1830 on Mondays to Saturdays; evening and Sunday services are cancelled.

## EAST ANGLIA

S N Kingston, King's Lynn The West Lynn ferry ceased on 21 March. Mr Kingston is retiring after running the service for 20 years and the ferry will not resume until the coronavirus restrictions are lifted and a new owner takes over.

## THAMES

City Cruises All services were cancelled from 20 March.

Thames River Sightseeing Sailings were suspended on 23 March.

Thames Clippers Services were reduced from 17 March and were completely suspended on 28 March.

## SOUTH COAST

Baker Trayte Marine, Portsmouth The Hayling ferry is suspended.

Gosport Ferry Since 21 March there has been a one-boat service.

D & P Faithfull, Portsmouth The late night Gosport ferry was suspended on 23 March.

Wightlink Since 19 March the ST CLARE has been carrying only passengers in vehicles who must remain in their vehicles. From 1 April the Lymington route was suspended. From 7 April the Ryde service is suspended and Fishbourne is reduced to a one-ship service every two hours.

Hamble-Warsash Ferry is suspended.

Red Funnel Ferries The East Cowes service is continuing on a winter timetable while from 4 April, a RED JET is running only a limited service from Cowes in the morning and evening.

Blue Funnel Cruises From 26 March the Hythe ferry has a reduced timetable with no Sunday service and no Hythe Pier train.

Isle of Wight Council Since 25 March the service is restricted to emergency vehicles and essential workers.

National Trust Brownsea Island is now closed to all visitors.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co Since 23 March the ferry has been open to cars, buses and commercial vehicles only.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries Since 16 March the COMMODORE CLIPPER is carrying only unaccompanied freight. All passenger sailings were cancelled from 27 March and the two fast ferries are laid-up in Poole.

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Isle of Sark Shipping Co Since 23 March, only the cargo vessel SARK VIKING has operated.

Trident Charter Co, Guernsey Sailings are cancelled.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

On 15 March a group of people was able to visit Drake's Island in Plymouth Sound, the first public visit for 30 years. The trip was organised by the owner to raise money for St Luke's Hospice in Plymouth and was sold out. More visits were planned this summer.

Exeter City Council The ferries are not running.

Teignmouth Shaldon Ferry Co The service is suspended.

Greenway Ferry All services have been suspended.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The Dartmouth-Kingswear ferry has been suspended since 24 March.

South Hams District Council The Dartmouth lower Ferry is running a reduced service, finishing at 1925 each evening.

Mount Batten Ferry, Plymouth, is suspended.

Plymouth Boat Trips All services, including the Stonehouse-Cremyll ferry were suspended from 25 March.

Torpoint Ferry is still running and tolls have been suspended.

Fal River The St Mawes ferry is suspended.

Flushing Ferry The service is suspended.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III made her first trip of the season on 23 March but subsequent sailings were limited to essential freight while the GRY MARITHA was off for refit. The GRY MARITHA resumed on the 30th and the SCILLONIAN III is now laid-up. There is a limited air service from Land's End for passengers.

Padstow Harbour Commissioners The ferry to Rock is suspended.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The island is closed to visitors.

#### NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries From 25 March to 3 April, the only service was the morning and evening Seacombe ferry, but this is now stopped.

Wyre Council The Knott End ferry was suspended on 28 March.

Cumbria County Council The Windermere ferry stopped on 25 March.

Windermere Lake Cruises Sailings were suspended on 20 March.

Ullswater 'Steamers' Sailings have been suspended since 20 March.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Since 23 March, only residents of the island and essential workers have been allowed to travel. The start of the MANANNAN's season has been delayed.

#### MISCELLANY

The restaurant ship HISPANIOLA, moored in London since 1973, has closed. This was planned before the virus pandemic. She was built in 1953 as the MAID OF ASHTON and ran on the Clyde until 1971.

# TRIP OUT

**May 2020**

As the lockdown continues, only a few ferry services are still running and they are carrying very few passengers. When the restrictions are eased, normal life will not return. Passengers on boats are likely to have to stay two metres apart and perhaps wear face masks which will make many services uneconomic. Charters for social and business functions will be impossible under these circumstances. On the other hand, many people will be keen to go out in the summer after weeks of being shut indoors, while foreign holidays will be difficult because of restrictions in other countries.

Operators face weeks or maybe months with no revenue while boats still have to be maintained and in many cases money has already been spent on a refit and survey. Many businesses are not eligible for government support schemes. These are very difficult times and I fear some operators will not survive.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions Work on the WAVERLEY is being delayed by the lockdown so it is uncertain whether she can operate this season.

## EAST ANGLIA

K F Duffy, Great Yarmouth The HAVEN CRUISER's season has been cancelled owing to uncertainty over the virus lockdown. She was the last passenger boat running from Yarmouth but has been for sale since last July.

## THAMES

Henley Royal Regatta, which normally provides lucrative business for boat operators, has been cancelled this year.

Thames Luxury Charters The ELIZABETHAN has had a major refit at Chatham and returned to London on 24 March. She has a new raised wheelhouse, larger upper deck windows and a refurnished interior.



(picture from Thames Luxury Charters)

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink Since 7 April, the VICTORIA OF WIGHT has been the only Wightlink ship, running from Portsmouth to Fishbourne every two hours.

Red Funnel Ferries The Red Jet service to Cowes was suspended on 18 April.

Blue Funnel Cruises The Hythe ferry was suspended from 20 April.

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The Solent Steam Packet The Poole Harbour Boat Show has been cancelled because of the virus so the SHIELDHALL's visit in June has been cancelled.

Dorset Cruises, Poole The DORSET QUEEN had a charter to the oil company Perenco in the spring carrying workers to and from Furzey Island.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The ferry was suspended from 21 April after the company blamed a lack of government support and the BRAMBLE BUSH BAY was towed to Poole to lay-up.

#### CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The sale of the company was completed on 9 March. Brittany Ferries has a 30% share and Columbia Threadneedle Investments has 70%.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE was due to run from 2 May to 1 October and this year has no separate programme of cruises. She will usually do the 1-hour cruises previously run by a motor vessel, except on the seven dates when she has a trip to Totnes: 1 and 16 June, 1, 16 and 30 July, and 14 and 28 September.

C Toms & Son, Polruan Both ferries continue to run but the Polruan service does not run on Sundays.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Avon Leisure Cruises, Evesham, has ceased trading and the two 12-passenger boats are to be sold.

#### NORTH WEST

Bridgewater Cruises, Worsley Unable to offer afternoon tea cruises, the firm is selling afternoon tea boxes which can be delivered to local addresses.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co From 15 to 29 April, the BEN-MY-CHREE was off service in Douglas while the daytime Heysham sailings were by the MANANNAN and the freight ferry ARROW did the overnight service. The TT Races have been cancelled so the extra sailings planned for that event are also cancelled.

#### MISCELLANY

The elegant launch ELIZABETH, last used as a passenger boat by the Bristol Ferry Boat Co around 2012, was sold and converted to be used as a static café, but is now for sale again at Watchet. She had run from Chester (as the DUKE OF EDINBURGH), York and Lincoln (as THE BELLE) before going to Bristol in 2002.

# TRIP OUT

**June 2020**

As the lockdown has continued, only a few short ferry crossings have been able to restart. Some operators hope to resume in late-June or early-July. Several major events which provided business for passenger boats have been cancelled, including Henley Regatta, the Reading Festival and the Bournemouth Air Festival.

Geoffrey Hamer

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## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Nexus Sunday services resumed on 31 May.

B A Snedden, Whitby, has retired and the vintage lifeboat MARY ANNE HEPWORTH has been sold.

## EAST ANGLIA

Riverboat Georgina, Cambridge The GEORGINA has been offered for sale for £80 000.

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services The ferry resumed on 16 May and runs on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays with reduced capacity.

## THAMES

Island Cruises The SPIRIT OF SHEPPEY is to be renamed DORSET BELLE and her red hull will be blue. It was her name from 1974 to 1983 and again from 1997 to 2011.

London Party Boats The LONDON BELLE has been offered for sale for £170 000.

Thames Leisure The TIDEWAY, laid-up for two years, has been advertised for sale for £45 000.

## SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry threatened to suspend the service in mid-May. Local authorities then agreed to pay £45 000 a month for two months to continue to provide a service for essential workers.

Solent & Wightline Cruises have been providing emergency transport from Cowes for NHS patients. The ALI CAT has made at least one trip to Portsmouth International Port.

The Solent Steam Packet announced on 22 May that the 2020 season is cancelled because of the virus.

Mudford Ferry plans to resume on 6 June.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The ferry was damaged on 8 May whilst laid-up in Poole. Some maintenance work is being carried out so that the service will not need to be suspended for a refit in November. It is due to resume on 17 June for people in vehicles but foot passengers and cyclists will not be carried.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries Passenger services are suspended until at least 19 June. The COMMODORE CLIPPER visited St-Malo on 16 May with freight.

Manche Iles Express The start of the season has been delayed until at least 15 June.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Greenway Ferry The Dittisham-Greenway ferry restarted on 16 May. Mount Batten Ferry, Plymouth, plans to resume a limited service on 13 June.

J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) have bought the MAY QUEEN. She has been refitted and given a yellow hull, and will return to the service from Custom House Quay to St Mawes which she has run for the past 50 years.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Kenneth Allsop Memorial Trust Trips to Steep Holm are still in 12-passenger RIBs, with departures from Weston and Cardiff, but are booked through the boats' owners, Bay Island Voyages Cardiff Cruises last winter bought THE LEWIS ALEXANDER, built in 1989 to run to Flat Holm but laid-up since 2013. She is advertised for parties of up to 40 people, and will offer trips to Flat Holm in 2021.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II is having a major refit this year and trips are not expected to start until mid-August.

Severn Leisure Cruises, Upton-upon-Severn It seems that the CONWAY CASTLE will, after all, be running this season.

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips The PRINCE GEORGE was originally the PRINCE CHARLES, running in Chester then York and Ely. She was rebuilt over six years and converted to hybrid diesel/electric power. She was scheduled to go to Lincoln on 20 June, 20 July and 20 August, taking 6-7 hours, with a trip from Lincoln to Boston the next day.

NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries The Monday-Friday morning and evening ferry to Seacombe resumed on 14 May and it will run all day from 8 June. An hourly weekend service to Seacombe is due to start on 20 June.

MISCELLANY

The KING ARTHUR was taken by road to Ipswich last July for conversion to a houseboat. Built in 1987, she ran in London until 1997, then in Gloucester.

OBITUARY

James Sherwood, founder of Sea Containers, died on 18 May at the age of 86. Born in the USA, he made a fortune leasing containers then in 1984 bought British Rail's shipping division, Sealink. The cross-channel ferries were sold to Stena in 1990, but Sea Containers had other ferry interests including Hoverspeed and, from 1996 to 2003, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co.

# TRIP OUT

**July 2020**

Many boats in England are starting their season on 4 July but with restricted passenger numbers and extra precautions. Different rules apply in Wales where reopening will come later. Passengers may have to wear face coverings and some operators insist on advance booking. It's not a return to normal life. Sadly, some operators have had to cancel their season and hope for better times in 2021.

Geoffrey Hamer

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## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Whitby Coastal Cruises resume on 4 July.

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE will not be sailing this year.

Sprotbrough Riverboat The WYRE LADY was badly damaged by a fire on the evening of 24 June. It is believed to be arson and police have appealed for witnesses.

## EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich, plan to start on 13 July.

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services A daily service has been scheduled since 30 June.

## THAMES

Burnham Ferry resumed on 15 June.

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Day trips from Chatham resume on 12 July.

Island Cruises plan to start trips to Southend on 11 July.

City Cruises From 4 July, boats will run from Westminster and London Eye to Tower Pier but Greenwich sailings will resume later.

Thames River Sightseeing Services are still suspended.

Thames Clippers resumed on 15 June with a special timetable. The Rotherhithe ferry will start later.

Bateaux London Sailings are suspended until at least 31 August.

The London Eye Cruises are due to resume on 1 August.

Thames River Boats There will be 45-minute cruises from Richmond on 4 and 5 July but Westminster services will start later.

Hammerton's Ferry resumed on 17 June.

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice, resumes on 4 July.

French Brothers resume 40-minute trips from Windsor on 4 July.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Cruises will run at weekends from 5 July.

Salter's Steamers All this year's public services have been cancelled apart from 40-minute cruises from Oxford.

## SOUTH COAST

Cowes Week must be added to the long list of major events cancelled this year.

Baker Trayte Marine, Portsmouth The Hayling ferry resumed on 20 June.

Gosport Ferry This summer's cruise programme has been cancelled.

Wightlink From 6 July the Portsmouth-Fishbourne route is increased to an hourly two-ship service. The Lymington-Yarmouth service resumes on 17 July with one ship sailing every two hours.

Red Funnel Ferries The Cowes service resumed on 29 June with the RED JET 6 offering a limited service in the morning and evening. An increased car ferry service, requiring three ships, starts on 10 July.

Blue Funnel Cruises The Hythe ferry resumed on 22 June.

Solent & Wightline Cruises The day trip from Cowes to Portsmouth starts on 4 July and will run daily, as well as Portsmouth Harbour cruises.

'Coral Star', Yarmouth, began running between Yarmouth and Lymington on 26 June with four return trips a day.

Needles Pleasure Cruises Trips resume on 4 July.

Hurst Marine The service resumes on 4 July and Hurst Castle reopens but entry to the Castle must be booked in advance.

Mudford Ferry resumed on 6 June.

United Motor Boats, Christchurch The Wick ferry resumed on 22 June.

City Cruises Poole Sailings from Poole and Swanage resume on 4 July.

National Trust plans to reopen Brownsea Island on 2 September.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co resumed on 16 June and carries foot passengers and cyclists as well as people in vehicles.

#### CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR LIBERATION has resumed sailing to Jersey and goes to Guernsey on 5 July. The CONDOR RAPIDE was due to sail from St-Malo to Jersey on 3-5 July but sailings were cancelled by industrial action in the French port. Guernsey is not open to travellers from France.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co Sark reopened to visitors from Guernsey on 1 June and there is a limited passenger service.

Trident Charter Co, Guernsey Herm reopened to visitors on 9 June with a limited boat service.

Manche Iles Express hopes to resume sailing to Jersey on 11 July but Guernsey, Sark and Alderney will remain closed to visitors.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Trips resume on 4 July.

J & M Rackley, Starcross and Dawlish The Starcross-Exmouth ferry is to restart on 9 July.

Western Lady Ferry Service resumes on 6 July.

Greenway Ferry Dartmouth-Greenway trips resume on 4 July.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co River cruises from Dartmouth resume on 6 July, but Totnes trips will start later.

T J Tucker, Salcombe The South Sands service is running, but is limited to 12 passengers.

Tiverton Canal Co will remain closed this year.

Plymouth Boat Trips The Cremyll ferry resumed on 16 June and other services will start on 4 July.

Mevagissey Ferries hope to start later this month.

Fal River The Falmouth to St Mawes ferry and the Place ferry will resume on 4 July. The Enterprise boats to Malpas or Truro will resume later.

Flushing Ferry resumed on 1 June.

A Thomas, Penzance Trips resume on 4 July.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III is due to resume on 4 July.

St Mary's Boatmen's Association resume on 4 July and will again be providing the summer service to St Martin's as well as trips to other islands.

B T Chapman, Padstow The JUBILEE QUEEN was due to make her first trips on 4 July but because of the weather forecast, the start of her season is delayed to the 6th.

Padstow Harbour Commissioners The ferry to Rock will resume on 6 July.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Appledore Instow Ferry will not run this year.

J Barbeary, Ilfracombe The ILFRACOMBE PRINCESS will resume on 4 July.

Lundy Company Lundy will reopen to staying visitors on 4 July but day trippers will not be able to visit till later.

Matthew of Bristol Cruises will start later this summer.

Beese's Riverside Bar, Bristol, will not open this year.

#### WEST WALES

Caldey Boat Service The island will not open to visitors in 2020.

Thousand Islands Expeditions, St David's Ramsey Island will be closed to visitors this year.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Ye Old Ferrie Inn, Symonds Yat, hopes to reopen later this month.

Saracen's Head Inn, Symonds Yat, will reopen on 4 July but the ferry will not be running.

Severn Leisure Cruises, Upton-upon-Severn The CONWAY CASTLE will open as a static café on 4 July but there is no date for the resumption of cruises.

Avon Boating, Stratford Trips resume on 4 July but initially only a shortened 15-minute cruise will be offered.

Bancroft Cruisers, Stratford, are taking charter bookings from 11 July but have no date for restarting public sightseeing trips.

'Countess of Evesham', Stratford, plans to reopen on 31 July.

Sabrina, Shrewsbury Trips resumed on 20 June.

B&MK Waterway Enterprises, Bedford Cruises are cancelled until at least 31 July.

The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge Cruises are also cancelled until at least 31 July.

Norbury Wharf The SHROPSHIRE STAR will not be running this year.

Georgie's Canal Cruises, Teddesley Trips will start on 24 July with capacity limited to 18 passengers.

Princess River Cruises, Nottingham, will resume on 4 July.

Newark Castle Line The SONNING will not resume until later this summer.

Rutland Water Cruises resume on 4 July.

#### NORTH WEST

E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon The QUEEN OF THE SEA is not expected to resume before August.

Seacoast Safaris (Beaumaris Marine Services) hope to resume on 18 July.

S Zalot (Starida Sea Services), Beaumaris, also hope to resume on 18 July.

Welsh Canal Holiday Craft, Llangollen Horse-drawn trips will resume on 6 July.

Jones the Boats, Trevor The EIRLYS has been sold, seemingly for private use, and was recently moored on the Grand Union Canal in west London.

ChesterBoat Half-hour trips resume on 4 July.

Anderton Boat Lift The Visitor Centre and boat trips remain closed until further notice.

'Judith Mary II', Whaley Bridge, has some public cruises this month and take-away food is also offered from the boat at its mooring. City centre Cruises, Manchester The first scheduled public trip is on 26 July.

Mersey Ferries continue to run between Liverpool and Seacombe only. All this year's Manchester Ship Canal cruises have been cancelled. Liverpool Bay and evening cruises in July are cancelled.

Liverpool Boat Charter The FLOATING GRACE restaurant boat resumes on 23 July.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society has no date for a resumption of cruises.

Kingfisher Cruises, Lancaster, resume on 4 July.

Foulridge Canal Cruises have cancelled trips for the rest of 2020.

Coniston Launch will resume on 6 July.

Cumbria County Council The Windermere car ferry resumed on 16 June.

Windermere Lake Cruises resume on 4 July with 1-hour non-landing cruises from Ambleside, Bowness and Lakeside.

Keswick Launch Co will resume on 7 July.

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The GONDOLA will not start until later in the summer.

Ullswater 'Steamers' resume on 6 July with a limited timetable.

Passengers must book for a return trip from Glenridding or from Pooley Bridge; they can disembark at Howtown but not board there.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co A limited service from Heysham continues until 23 July while the island is closed to visitors.

#### MISCELLANY

THE BELLE sank in Gallions Marina, North Woolwich, on 23 June and then, in an attempt to raise her, the hull was badly damaged. She was last used as a passenger boat in 2014 between Littlehampton and Arundel, and had been laid-up for some time. Built as the SOUTHEND BELLE in 1947, her career took her to Westminster (as WESTMINSTER BELLE), Falmouth, Looe, Plymouth, Poole (as MAID OF WAREHAM), Exmouth (MAID OF EXMOUTH), Plymouth again (DEVON BELLE V then DEVON BELLE), Brighton (THE BELLE) and Littlehampton.

The Northern Belle Trust has been unable to raise money to keep the vessel stored under cover and has offered her for sale for £5000 for conversion or restoration.

# TRIP OUT

**August 2020**

More boats are now operating, but few are providing a normal summer service. A problem for some is that the MCA did not resume surveys until 20 July so boats still need a passenger certificate.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions With her new boilers installed and tested, the WAVERLEY's paddle wheels were turned on 31 July for the first time since 2018. If she returns to service this year, it will only be a short programme on the Clyde.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

A & T Douglas, Seahouses, resumed on 4 July but passengers cannot land on the islands.

W Shiel, Seahouses, are also running.

G D Shiel, Seahouses The GOLDEN GATE has not yet resumed trips.

River Escapes, Newcastle All trips are cancelled until November.

RiverShack, Stockton-on-Tees, plan to restart trips from Yarm in August.

City Cruises York resumed on 4 July.

Standedge Tunnel Visitor Centre, Marsden, will remain closed in 2020.

Sprotbrough Riverboat The WYRE LADY is to return to service in 2021 after repairs

Skipton Boat Trips resumed on 4 July.

## EAST ANGLIA

Mississippi River Boats, Horning, resumed on 9 July.

Broads Tours, Wroxham Trips resumed on 20 July.

D Church (Walberswick Ferry), Southwold, resumed on 1 July.

Butley Ferry resumed on 25 July.

Sailing Barge Victor, Ipswich, resumed on 12 July.

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services Seal-watching trips have resumed with reduced numbers.

Sailing Barge Kitty moved to a new base at North Fambridge on the River Crouch because of increased mooring fees at Maldon. The move was delayed by the virus but took place on 16 July. The KITTY will offer some 2- and 4-hour public cruises from North Fambridge.

## THAMES

Island Cruises The SPIRIT OF SHEPPEY completed her MCA survey on 24 July and made her first trip on the 26th. She will be moving to run on the south coast under her new name of DORSET BELLE.

Hire Cruisers, Maidstone, resumed on 18 July, doing one-hour non-landing cruises from Maidstone. A 2-hour fish and chips cruise runs on Thursday evenings.

Lee Valley Boat Centre, Broxbourne, resumed on 4 July.

Lee & Stort Boat Co resumed on 25 July.

City Cruises have begun running to Greenwich at weekends in August.

Thames River Sightseeing resumed on 1 August, with hourly sailings on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Westminster, Embankment, St Katharine and Greenwich.

Thames Clippers Uber replaced MBNA as sponsor on 3 August and the craft will carry the slogan "Uber boat by Thames Clippers".

Bateaux London plan to resume for private parties on 1 October but public cruises will not resume before Easter 2021.

Thames River Boats The PRINCESS FREDA has been running 45-minute cruises from Richmond since 4 July, and the COCKNEY SPARROW began twice-daily trips between Westminster and Kew on 25 July.

Thames Leisure The TIDEWAY has been sold and left London on 31 July for the Medway where she is expected to become a houseboat.

Turk Launches resumed on 8 July, offering 40-minute cruises from Kingston on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and from Richmond on Fridays and Saturdays.

Parr Boats, Kingston, started non-landing cruises from Kingston at weekends from 4 July and these run every day from 27 July.

Hampton Ferry Boathouse The ferry has restarted.

Jason's Trip, Little Venice, resumed on 8 July.

Walker's Quay, Camden The JENNY WREN resumed on 4 July.

JGF Passenger Boats, Walton-on-Thames, resumed on 4 July.

French Brothers Short trips from Runnymede in the LUCY FISHER have resumed, as well as a daily Runnymede-Windsor trip and a 2-hour cruise from Windsor to Bray. Services to Hampton Court and to Maidenhead will not run this year.

Windsor Duck Tours resumed on 4 July.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA will not be running this year.

Hobbs of Henley River trips resumed on 4 July while THE NEW ORLEANS is open at weekends as a static bar serving drinks and hot dogs.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Since 21 July, cruises have run daily except Mondays. There will be no trips to Beale Park, Goring or Reading Abbey.

Godalming Packetboat Co will not run this year.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust The ROSE OF HUNGERFORD resumes on 15 August. The KENAVON VENTURE will not run this year.

Kennet Horse Boat Co, Kintbury, will not run this year.

## SOUTH COAST

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard has not reopened yet.

Wightlink The Portsmouth-Ryde service restarted on 31 July. There is an hourly two-ship service to Fishbourne with a third ship at weekends, and one ship from Lymington midweek with a second ship at weekends. Foot passengers must book in advance on all routes.

Hamble-Warsash Ferry began running at weekends in July and has been daily since 20 July.

Red Funnel Ferries Since 1 August, there has been an hourly three-ship car ferry service. One RED JET runs to Cowes, with departures at intervals of an hour and 20 minutes.

Blue Funnel Cruises This season's public cruises have been cancelled. Christmas cruises are scheduled for December and next year's cruise programme has been published.

Buckler's Hard reopened to visitors on 8 July and river trips resumed.

United Motor Boats, Christchurch The service from Tuckton Bridge to Mundeford Beach resumed on 10 July.

National Trust Brownsea Island reopened on 23 July with boats from Poole only. Tickets must be booked in advance with the NT.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole Since 18 July, the PURBECK PRINCESS has run harbour cruises daily at 1100, 1230 and 1400. There will be no Wareham trips this year.

Coastline Cruises, Weymouth, will not be running this year.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries It was the CONDOR RAPIDE which restarted services from Poole. The 'LIBERATION' resumed on 11 July and the 'RAPIDE' went to Cherbourg until her St-Malo to Jersey sailings were able to resume on 17 July.

Manche Iles Express The VICTOR HUGO began running from Granville to Jersey on 18 July, but sailings were suspended again from the 25th because of a lack of passengers.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Exeter City Council The Topsham ferry resumed on 1 August and will run at weekends this month.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE is doing short cruises from Dartmouth but Totnes sailings have not resumed.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co plan to start on 5 August.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust Looe Island has reopened to visitors with limited numbers.

Mevagissey Ferries resumed on 30 July with a restricted timetable.

J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) The TAMAR BELLE began running from Falmouth (Prince of Wales Pier) to St Mawes on 5 July, leaving hourly from 1000 to 1700.

Fal River The Enterprise boats resumed on 13 July, sailing from Falmouth and St Mawes to Trelissick, but not to Malpas or Truro.

St Ives Boat Services The FOUR SISTERS is not running this year.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Day return tickets are being offered for only £25.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company Day trips are now possible and the OLDENBURG had an extra day trip scheduled for 2 August for the annual "Air Day" when planes land on the island.

Bristol Packet 45-minute harbour cruises resumed in July.

Matthew of Bristol Harbour cruises resumed on 28 July and Avon Gorge cruises begin on 15 August.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Bradford-on-Avon, resumes on 12 August.

Cardiff Boat The city centre landing stage in Bute Park has storm damage so trips have been unable to resume.

Aquabus, Cardiff, restarted Bay cruises on 18 July.

Cardiff Cruises will not run this year.

Swansea Community Boat Trust have not resumed yet.

#### WEST WALES

Carmarthen Bay Ferries will not run this year.

Tenby Boat Trips resumed on 13 July.

Caldey Boat Service The boats which usually run to Caldey are offering 30-minute and one-hour cruises from Tenby.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Ye Old Ferrie Inn, Symonds Yat, reopens on 5 August. The ferry was damaged in February's floods and will need to be replaced.

Canal and River Tours, Stratford, resumed in July.

B&MK Waterway Enterprises, Bedford, plan to resume in September with a new programme of cruises.

Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust Trips resumed on 10 July.

The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge Trips for the rest of the summer have been cancelled.

Lincoln Boat Trips resumed on 18 July.

Friends of the Cromford Canal hope to resume later this month.

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips The BOSTON BELLE resumed a limited programme on 26 July but with capacity limited to 30 passengers.

#### NORTH WEST

E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon The QUEEN OF THE SEA will resume on 6 August.

Seacoast Safaris (Beumaris Marine Services) resumed on 1 August.  
S Zalot (Starida Sea Services), Beumaris, also started on the 1st.  
T Hughes, Conwy Trips resumed on 9 July.

Anderton Boat Lift The Visitor Centre reopened on 1 August, but boat trips will start later.

Mersey Ferries Liverpool Bay and evening cruises in August have been cancelled.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society The steamer will not be sailing this year, but tickets are on sale for next year's sailings which start on 7 May.

Foulridge Canal Cruises The business has been advertised for sale for £120 000 as the owner, Martin Cleaver, wants to retire.

Windermere Lake Cruises Services between Lakeside, Bowness and Ambleside resumed on 3 August, with online booking for allocated seats.

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The GONDOLA resumed on 31 July.

Ullswater 'Steamers' Calls at Aira Force resumed on 16 July.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co From 24 July, the BEN-MY-CHREE resumed twice-daily services from Heysham while the MANANNAN began weekend services from Liverpool.

The company signed a contract with Hyundai Mipo Dockyard of South Korea on 31 July for a replacement for the BEN-MY-CHREE. The new ship will have more passenger accommodation and will arrive in 2023 when the "Ben" will be retained as a relief ship.



(from Isle of Man Steam Packet Co)

#### MISCELLANY

The REGAL LADY opened on 6 July as a static café and museum, moored in Scarborough.

# TRIP OUT

**September 2020**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY carried out trials from Greenock on 13 and 14 August then returned to her base in Glasgow. A limited programme of Clyde sailings was scheduled for 17 days from 21 August to 6 September, with capacity reduced to 25% of normal and advance bookings only. She was cancelled on the 21st for technical and administrative reasons and on the 25th by the weather. Most sailings were sold out and the season was extended to 12 September. On 3 September she struck the pier at Brodick and the bow was damaged; 213 passengers were aboard and some were injured. The CALEDONIAN ISLES made an extra sailing to bring passengers back to the mainland. The WAVERLEY's season was terminated after just 12 days in service.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Teesside Princess, Stockton-on-Tees, expect to resume in October.

RiverShack, Stockton-on-Tees The JUNO resumed in August.

S Newby, Bridlington THE PIRATE SHIP is doing her usual 10-minute trips.

Yorkshire Hire Cruisers, Leeds, will resume on 11 September with capacity limited to 25.

A&G Passenger Boats, Sheffield, resumed a limited service on 4 July.

## EAST ANGLIA

S N Kingston, King's Lynn The business has been bought by Richard Stannard and Ben Ellis who have formed West Lynn Ferry Ltd. The service resumed on 1 September, running daily except Sundays.

Bean's Boat Trips, Morston, resumed on 4 July.

Bishop's Boats, Blakeney, resumed on 4 July carrying 12 passengers on each boat. This was increased to 50% of normal capacity from 3 August.

Blakeney Point Seal Trips, Morston, resumed on 7 July with the PTARMIGAN limited to 12 passengers.

J Temple, Morston, resumed on 7 July.

Riverboat Georgina, Cambridge, ceased operating last year after a large increase in mooring fees. The GEORGINA, purpose-built in Bristol in 1995, was offered for sale in May.

Waveney River Centre, Burgh St Peter, reopened in July and the ferry restarted.

Brightlingsea Harbour Commission The ferry resumed on 4 July.

'Viking Saga', Maldon, will not be running this year.

## THAMES

Island Cruises The SPIRIT OF SHEPPEY made her last cruise from Queenborough on 15 August and left early the next morning for Poole, arriving on the 17th after an overnight stop in Brighton.

'Lady Daphne' The sailing barge went to Oare Creek near Faversham in November and is having a major refit.

Thames Clippers The TORNADO CLIPPER was taken from the base at Trinity Buoy Wharf in the early hours of 29 August. Police were able to stop the vessel and arrest the man before any damage was done.

Thames River Boats Sailings from Westminster to Kew were cancelled on 14 August as Hammersmith Bridge was closed to navigation because of safety fears, and the river at Hammersmith remains closed to all boats. The COCKNEY SPARROW is to offer 1-hour upriver cruises from Westminster on 5 September and the PRINCESS FREDA continues to do 45-minute cruises from Richmond.

River Boat Charters The HENLEY is to do 45-minute trips from Kew at weekends, starting on Friday 11 September.

Salter's Steamers All public trips, including short trips from Oxford, are cancelled.

Oxford River Cruises have resumed.

Basingstoke Canal Society The JOHN PINKERTON has resumed charter trips for up to 25 passengers, but public trips have not restarted.

Godalming Packetboat Co The owner, Jenny Roberts, has decided to give up after 33 years and the IONA has been sold to the Tiverton Canal Co. Problems with other boats and other towpath users are blamed. The IONA left Godalming on 24 August and was towed via the Thames to Reading then by road to Tiverton.

#### SOUTH COAST

Bodiam Boating Station The DANNIE LEE has not run this summer.

Ross Boat Trips, Brighton, are offering only private charters, apart from 2-hour trips to the Rampion wind farm in a 12-passenger boat.

Wey & Arun Canal Trust Trips resumed on 1 August.

Littlehampton Ferry will not run this year.

Chichester Canal Trading Cruises resumed on 12 August, in the RICHMOND.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy The Itchenor ferry resumed on 20 June. Trips in the SOLAR HERITAGE are cancelled until 30 October.

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard reopened on 24 August with advance booking only, but there is no boat service to the submarine and explosions museums.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED OSPREY was withdrawn for repairs on 28 August. The RED EAGLE had a fault on 2 September, so only one car ferry was running. All three ferries were running on 3 September.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge was withdrawn for maintenance on 14 July and needs further work. A passenger launch is operating instead.

Mudford Ferry is offering cruises in the JOSEPHINE to view the cruise ships anchored in the bay.

'Dorset Belle' The SPIRIT OF SHEPPEY, still owned by Island Cruises, made berthing trials at Bournemouth and Swanage on 18 August. On 29 August, she began hourly cruises from Bournemouth around the bay under her "new" name of DORSET BELLE.

Dorset Cruises, Poole The DORSET QUEEN resumed on 12 August with a programme of harbour cruises and gin cruises, but there are no afternoon tea cruises this year.

City Cruises Poole The SOLENT CAT arrived from Cowes on 7 August and has since been running to the Jurassic Coast and Swanage with the SOLENT SCENE, providing extra capacity. Evening trips to Wareham in the ISLAND SCENE resumed on 17 August.

Lulworth Pleasure Cruises are not running this year.

Coastline Cruises, Weymouth Although regular trips are not running, the boats have been doing cruises to view cruise ships anchored in the bay.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The SARK VENTURE has been at St Sampson, Guernsey, since December, having a major refit. The newly-acquired CORSAIRE DES ILES II is still in St-Malo and will not be ready till next year. The SARK BELLE has thus been the only passenger vessel in use, though both she and the laid-up BON MARIN DE SERK are due to be sold.

Jersey Bus & Boat Tours The JERSEY DUCHESS is doing a daily 2-hour cruise but the company's bus tours are not running.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Exe Fishing, Exmouth, resumed in July.

Exeter Cruises will not be running this year.

S & M Garrett, Topsham, has not yet resumed.

J & M Rackley, Starcross and Dawlish The PRINCESS MARINA is offering river and coastal cruises from Starcross, but there will be no trips from Dawlish this year.

W E Hook (Riviera Cruises), Teignmouth The RESTLESS is not running this year.

Teignmouth Shaldon Ferry Co resumed on 5 July and planned to run till the end of August.

Funfish Trips, Brixham, offered only mackerel fishing trips until 22 August when the BRIXHAM BELLE started daily wildlife cruises.

J Distin, Dartmouth The Dartmouth Castle ferry resumed on 6 July.

Dittisham Ferries, Dartmouth, resumed on 4 July.

Tiverton Canal Co The IONA arrived in Tiverton from Godalming on 27 August and will run next year with the TIVERTONIAN.

Drake's Island, Plymouth Daily guided tours began on 7 July, with passengers taken on the Smiths' SILVER CREST from Mount Batten Pier.

'Island Cruise', Looe, is doing angling trips for up to 12 passengers in her first season at Looe.

Fal River The "park & float" service from Ponsharden is not running this year.

Helford River Boats The ferry resumed on 1 July.

Rock Water Taxi The evening ferry to Padstow has not resumed.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boats have not yet resumed.

Number Seven Boat Trips, Bristol The cross-harbour ferry has resumed. A limited programme of 40-minute harbour cruises began in August.

Pulteney Cruisers, Bath One boat has been running since 18 July but there are no landings at Bathampton.

Dragon Fly Cruises, Brecon, have resumed.

WEST WALES

Dale Sailing Co, Marloes, are offering cruises around the islands but Skomer is closed to visitors.

Thousand Islands Expeditions, St David's Only a 12-seat jet boat is running this year.

D W Evans, New Quay, resumed in July.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

English Holiday Cruises, Gloucester Cruises resumed on 10 August.

Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury, is open but the ferry is not running.

The River King, Stourport, resumed in July.

E W Huxley & Son, Evesham The ferry resumed on 4 July.

Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne Cruises through Blisworth Tunnel resumed on 5 July and run on Sundays.

Stoke Bruerne Boat Company Trips are running for 12 passengers.

Central Boat Parties, Birmingham, are running with reduced capacities.

Trent River Cruises, Nottingham, resumed in July.

Newark Castle Line The SONNING resumed on 27 August. Cruises will not call at Farndon.

Friends of the Cromford Canal Trips may resume in September.

#### NORTH WEST

Barmouth Ferry resumed on 8 August.

T Ellis, Llandudno Trips have resumed.

Welsh Canal Holiday Craft, Llangollen Trips to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct in the THOMAS TELFORD resumed on 3 August but only for groups.

Bridgewater Cruises, Worsley The FRANCIS EGERTON resumed in August with capacity limited to 18.

Tameside Canal Boat Trust resumed on 12 July with trips on Sundays for up to 12 passengers.

Kittywake Canal Cruises, Wigan, have resumed.

Boatel Party Cruises, Chorley, resumed in July.

Lancaster Canal Cruises, Garstang, have resumed.

Wyre Council The Knott End ferry resumed on 25 July.

J Cleasby, Barrow Piel Island is not opening this year and the ferry is not running.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE damaged a propeller when approaching Heysham on the evening of 27 August. She went to Falmouth to be dry-docked for repairs, arriving on 1 September, and is not expected to return to service before the 11th. The MANANNAN is running to Heysham or at weekends Liverpool, while the ARROW is carrying freight.

# TRIP OUT

**October 2020**

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Waverley Excursions After her accident on 3 September the WAVERLEY stayed at Brodick till the 9th when she returned to Glasgow.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Berwick Boat Trips began running coastal and river cruises from Berwick-upon-Tweed in 2017 with the BORDER ROSE (ex WILD ROSE of Keyhaven). In July, they bought the GIRL KATHERINE II from Arbroath.

River Escapes, Newcastle Party cruises are due to restart in January and sightseeing trips resume in the spring..

Teesside Princess, Stockton-on-Tees, is to resume this month.

## EAST ANGLIA

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services The HARBOUR FERRY broke from her mooring at Harwich in a storm on 25 September and was badly damaged. The HARBOUR FERRY is now at the Suffolk Yacht Harbour on the river Orwell and the service will not resume until next year. Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe & Rowhedge Ferry will not run this year.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham The JACOB MARLEY has trips from Queenborough between 10 October and 1 November, with day trips to Southend and cruises round the wreck of the RICHARD MONTGOMERY. This year the JACOB MARLEY has a Class IV certificate so is able to carry passengers in the Thames estuary in winter.

City Cruises Since 21 September, boats run from Westminster, London Eye and Tower Pier only, with no sailings to Greenwich; from 2 October the service is on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

Bateaux London Lunch and dinner cruises are being offered on a few dates this autumn

River Boat Charters The HENLEY's proposed trips from Kew were cancelled

## SOUTH COAST

Chichester Harbour Water Tours have been offering only private seal-watching trips for groups of up to six people.

D & P Faithfull, Portsmouth, resumed on 25 September, running to Gosport on Friday and Saturday nights from 2300 to 0230.

Wightlink The WIGHT SKY was at Falmouth from 10 to 23 September for refit.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge will not return before mid-October.

'Dorset Belle', Bournemouth There was a trip to Swanage on 26 September. Trips around the bay continue this month.

City Cruises Poole The SOLENT CAT made her last trips from Poole on 20 September and returned to Cowes the next day.

Hurst Marine, Keyhaven The WILD ROSE was sold in the winter of 2016/17 and is now at Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Lulworth Pleasure Cruises are running this season, correcting the last newssheet. On 6 September, the SULA II broke down off Durdle Door and the Weymouth lifeboat was called out. She was towed back to Lulworth Cove where passengers were put ashore.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER was at Poole for maintenance from 13 to 20 September and returned to service from Portsmouth on the 21st. She sails overnight from Portsmouth to the islands until 23 October. The CONDOR LIBERATION carried out berthing trials at Portsmouth on 27 September.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The BON MARIN DE SERK has been sold after serving Sark for 36 years, and left on 22 September for Finland, calling at Nieuwpoort, IJmuiden, Cuxhaven, Rødby, Ystad, and Kalmar, and was at the small Finnish island of Utö on 30 September.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Exeter City Council The Topsham ferry has ceased for the winter.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co Trips continue until 31 October, and the LADY MARY is due to run at Christmas and the New Year.

Drake's Island, Plymouth Visits with a guided tour continue through October and November.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Next year the SCILLONIAN III is due to run from 22 March to 7 November.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boats will remain closed until next April.

Aquabus, Cardiff Trips upriver to Taff's Mead resumed on 26 September.

Swansea Community Boat Trust The COPPER JACK will not resume until next spring.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

B&MK Waterway Enterprises, Bedford The JOHN BUNYAN resumed on 31 August with capacity limited to 12 passengers.

Friends of the Cromford Canal Public trips will not resume this year.

NORTH WEST

Dry Barge, Manchester, has been established several years, running the 60-passenger BOHEMIA on trips to Old Trafford for Manchester United matches as well as charters. She will run with the newly acquired MARTON EMPEROR which is now being refitted.

Mersey Ferries continue to run only between Liverpool and Seacombe.

Foulridge Canal Cruises The owner, Martin Cleaver, is retiring after running the MARTON EMPEROR for 27 years. She sailed to her new owners in Manchester on 25 September.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE left Falmouth on 5 September after repairs, and returned to service on the 8th. The MANANNAN's season of Liverpool sailings ends on 1 November, and the BEN-MY-CHREE then continues daily sailings to Heysham.

# TRIP OUT

**November 2020**

Normally in November, we can look back on the summer season and I compile lists of the ten biggest operators, but this year has been completely abnormal. We are now in a second lockdown in England, lasting from 5 November to 2 December, and only a few essential ferry services are running, while it's impossible to predict what next year will bring.

Geoffrey Hamer

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The first phase of the government's Culture Recovery Fund has awarded £67 million to 433 organisations, including Lundy (£500 000), Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust (£309 800), DANIEL ADAMSON (£151 000), Thames Steamers' ALASKA (£30 000) and the MV Balmoral Fund (£15 000).

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Sprotbrough Riverboat The owners hope the WYRE LADY will return to service in December for Santa cruises.

## EAST ANGLIA

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services The HARBOUR FERRY is being repaired after her accident in September. The GLORIA, used for seal-watching trips, is for sale for £30 000.

## THAMES

The Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce was set up by the government in September following the closure of the bridge on safety grounds. A temporary ferry service for cyclists and pedestrians is promised by "early 2021 at the latest". The bridge is still closed to river traffic apart from some early morning passages without passengers.  
Woolwich Ferry The ferries are the only passenger vessels running in London during the lockdown.

## SOUTH COAST

Baker Trayte Marine, Portsmouth The Hayling ferry is suspended during the lockdown.

Wightlink The Lympington-Yarmouth service will be reduced to a two-hourly one-ship service from 9 November.

Blue Funnel Cruises During the lockdown the Hythe ferry will run only a limited morning and evening service on Mondays to Fridays.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge began running again on 20 October after a break of over three months.

'Dorset Belle', Bournemouth The DORSET BELLE did further trips to Swanage on 17 October but otherwise did short trips from Bournemouth, weather permitting.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The Poole service is suspended from 6 November to 3 December. The CONDOR LIBERATION went to Falmouth for refit on 4 November.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The SARK VENTURE returned to service by 26 October. The CORSAIRE DES ILES II arrived in St Peter Port from her previous owners in St-Malo on 4 November.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Ian Stuart died on 3 October at the age of 56 after suffering from throat cancer. The business was started in 1968 by Ian's father who ran trips from Exmouth beach. Ian took over in 1992 and added the TUDOR ROSE in 1994, allowing all-year trips on the estuary. The PRIDE OF EXMOUTH, purpose-built in 2003, expanded the range of coastal trips and the sailings were advertised widely with Ian and his wife Philippa promoting Exmouth and their business at travel exhibitions around the country. The business is now in the capable hands of Ian's son Jake.

Greenway Ferry The CHRISTIE BELLE was due to run from Dartmouth to Greenway at weekends through the winter.

Plymouth Boat Trips The Cremyll ferry is still running. Harbour cruises are due to run on Saturdays in December. The service from the Barbican via Royal William Yard to Cremyll will run at weekends in December, then daily from 19 December to 3 January (except 25-26 December and 1 January). The E-VOYAGER, a small boat claimed to be the UK's first sea-going electric ferry, has been fitted out by Voyager Boatyard in Millbrook and is due to run next year.

'Island Cruise', Looe Just one year after arriving from Tenby, the ISLAND CRUISE has been advertised for sale. This year, she has been used for angling trips for up to 12 passengers.

Fal River The St Mawes ferry is suspended during the lockdown. Flushing Ferry is still running.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III made her last trip of the season on 30 October as the following day's trip was cancelled by the weather.

Padstow Harbour Commissioners The ferry to Rock is suspended.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips The BOSTON BELLE has been advertised for sale for £39 999. Originally the DUKE OF EDINBURGH at Rhyl, she ran from Westminster, Dartmouth, Plymouth and, since 2002, Boston.

NORTH WEST

'Judith Mary II', Whaley Bridge The owners announced on 20 October that the business is forced to close because of virus restrictions. Allen Kelsall and his daughter Suzy had run cruises on the Peak Forest Canal since 1982. The JUDITH MARY II is for sale for £60 000.

Mersey Ferries Next year's Manchester Ship Canal cruises will be day cruises lasting between 5 and 6 hours, turning at Latchford to return to the Mersey, and will not go all the way to Salford. They will run on 21 dates from 30 April to 8 October, at a fare of £46.

Windermere Lake Cruises The SWIFT made her first public sailings on 25 October. The winter timetable was due to run from 2 November to 26 March with daily sailings from Lakeside, Bowness and Ambleside; tickets must be booked online.

# TRIP OUT

**December 2020**

I hope readers have a happy Christmas, despite all this year's problems. Let's all hope for happier times next year.

Geoffrey Hamer

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## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington, has launched a "save our Belle" appeal to raise money to continue running the YORKSHIRE BELLE after her 2020 season was cancelled because of the virus.

City Cruises York Christmas cruises will run this month.

Sprotbrough Riverboat The WYRE LADY is now expected to return to service in the spring.

## THAMES

Transport for London is inviting tenders to provide a temporary ferry service to replace Hammersmith Bridge, carrying pedestrians and cyclists. The service would run for at least a year and the total cost is expected to be £10 million.

City Cruises Trips run from Westminster, London Eye and Tower Pier at weekends then daily from 26 December to 3 January.

Thames River Sightseeing Sailings from Westminster, Embankment, St Katharine and Greenwich run at weekends in December.

Thames Clippers resumed on 3 December.

Thames Party Boats The VISCOUNT has been offered for sale with her present business for £295 000.

Turk Launches Two boats have been advertised for sale: the JEFF for £45 000 and the KINGSTON ROYALE for £150 000.

Parr Boats, Kingston The HURLEY has been sold for use as a houseboat. Originally the private steam launch CAUCASE, she was Salters' PHOENIX then HURLEY in the 1920s, then went to the Avon at Evesham. She was bought by French Brothers in 1982 and rebuilt to run from Runnymede, then sold to the Parr family in 1991.

French Brothers plan to run 40-minute trips at weekends from 5 to 20 December.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink From 14 November to 4 December, the Ryde service was suspended and the Lymington route did not run at weekends. There was an hourly service between Portsmouth and Fishbourne. Foot passengers still need to book in advance. The ST FAITH was at Falmouth for refit from 18 November to 1 December.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED EAGLE was at Falmouth for refit from 5 to 19 November.

Blue Funnel Cruises Next summer's cruises include trips to Hythe, the Hamble River, Cowes and on 14 May, 26 July and 31 August to the Beaulieu River.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge has suffered further mechanical problems and under 42% of crossings ran in November.

City Cruises Poole Harbour cruises are due to resume on 13 February.

Birds of Poole Harbour is offering winter cruises in the harbour using Greenslades' boats. Telephone 01202 641003.

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CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR RAPIDE carried out berthing trials at Portsmouth on 25 November. She restarted the Poole service on 4 December.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Next year's Exeter Ship Canal cruises are on 4 and 21 May, 2 and 19 June, 2 and 19 July, and 15 and 30 September.

Western Lady Ferry Service Both boats are now for sale, the WESTERN LADY VI for £120 000 and the "VII" for £160 000.

S S Jamieson, Torquay The SHEPHERD LASS did not run this year because of the virus and is now for sale for £38 000.

Paignton Pleasure Cruises The DART PRINCESS had been doing trips to view the cruise ships laid-up in Tor Bay.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The company's 2019 report shows turnover down by 2.3% but an increased profit of £580 000 before tax. The boats carried 251 400 passengers, 13% fewer than in 2018.

Fal River The St Mawes ferry resumed on 2 December.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III was moved into the Penzance dry dock on 13 November.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG went to Sharpness for refit on 23 November. Her passenger sailings will be from 30 March to 29 October 2021.

Bristol Ferry Boats Daily services resume on 3 April. Avon Gorge cruises are planned for 24 dates between 27 March and 2 October, and there are trips upriver to Beese's Riverside Bar on Friday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes.

NORTH WEST

'Judith Mary II', Whaley Bridge After announcing the closure of the business in October, the owners have decided to try to carry on and the JUDITH MARY II is no longer for sale.

Mersey Ferries The Seacombe landing stage will be closed for renewal work, after the last crossings on 18 December. Sailings will resume from Woodside on 4 January and Seacombe will reopen in the summer.

Windermere Lake Cruises Sailings from Lakeside, Bowness and Ambleside are daily (except that between 2 January and 7 February Lakeside is served only at weekends).

Ullswater 'Steamers' The LADY WAKEFIELD now offers one-hour cruises from Glenridding for groups of up to 50 passengers.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The new ferry ordered in South Korea is to be named MANXMAN; she will be the third ship of that name owned by the company.

# TRIP OUT

**January 2021**

With another lockdown since 5 January, only a few essential ferry services are still running, while planning for next season has become more complicated. We do not know whether life will start to return to normal by the summer and boat operators face difficult choices.

Geoffrey Hamer

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## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

River Escapes, Newcastle 1-hour sightseeing trips are due to run at Easter and other cruises should resume in May.

## EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich This year's public cruises are between 3 April and 9 October. Special trips include landing at Shotley on 12 August and a summer solstice sunrise cruise at 0345 on 21 June.

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services The HARBOUR FERRY is due to run from 29 March to 31 October.

## THAMES

Woolwich Ferry The contract with Briggs Marine has ended and the service is now run directly by Transport for London. During the changeover, the service is closed between 2 and 8 January.

Thames Clippers resumed on 3 December but services were again suspended on 22 December.

Thames & Orwell Marine Services The sailing barge MAY is no longer available for charter and was moved to Ipswich in September.

Hobbs of Henley The HIBERNIA was open in December as a static café, moored downstream of Henley Bridge.

## SOUTH COAST

Baker Trayte Marine, Portsmouth The Hayling ferry has been suspended since 19 December.

Wightlink The Ryde service is again suspended while the Fishbourne and Yarmouth routes each have a limited one-ship service. The ST CLARE left on 5 January for Falmouth for dry-docking.

Hamble-Warsash Ferry is suspended.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON left on 5 January for Falmouth. The Red Jet service is now running to a reduced timetable with sailings in the mornings and early evenings only.

Blue Funnel Cruises The Hythe ferry has been suspended since Christmas.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL has public cruises on 25 dates from 15 May to 12 September, including a cruise to the Nab Tower on 17 July, Southampton-Poole on 30 August, cruises from Poole for the Bournemouth Air Festival on 3-5 September and Poole-Southampton on 6 September.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth The DORSET BELLE went to Hythe for refit on 6 January. The owner hopes to run to Brownsea Island as well as Swanage.

National Trust Brownsea Island is due to open from 20 March to 31 October.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR LIBERATION left Falmouth on 22 December and ran from Poole during the holiday period. Both fast ferries are cancelled from 5 January to 31 March because of low demand.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Both boats were in use for Christmas trips, but services have had to be suspended since 31 December.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co Plans to run on New Year's Eve had to be cancelled and trips are due to resume at Easter.

Fal River The St Mawes ferry is suspended.

Padstow Harbour Commissioners The Rock ferry is suspended.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet Avon Gorge cruises are scheduled for 70 dates between 7 March and 12 December.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II did not sail in 2020 but the museum hopes she will run this year.

NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries The ROYAL IRIS OF THE MERSEY reopened the Woodside service on 4 January after a break since March. Seacombe is now closed until the summer. The service is limited to mornings and early evenings, with no service at weekends.

MISCELLANY

A Guernsey company plans to open the former Gosport ferry PORTSMOUTH QUEEN as a static restaurant in St Peter Port. She arrived on the Thames in 2016 but has been laid-up at Queenborough with conversion to a party boat only partly completed.

The ROCHESTER QUEEN (ex QUEEN OF SCOTS, BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN, CORONIA) is for sale on the Medway for £199 999 as a static venue or houseboat. She needs to be moved from her present mooring at Cuxton.

# TRIP OUT

**February 2021**

The lockdown continues and nobody can be sure when life will start to return to some sort of normality. International travel will remain difficult so there should be more people going to British seaside resorts, but fewer foreign tourists visiting places like London and Windsor. For boat operators, there is the problem of getting boats refitted and surveyed even if trips are able to resume. So many people face an uncertain future and we can only hope for better times.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The Covid-19 Relief Appeal, to raise funds for the ship's spring refit, had by 27 January raised £220 000 of the required £350 000.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Nexus plans to replace the current North Shields landing with a new terminal further downstream in the Fish Quay area.

## EAST ANGLIA

Sailing Barge Victor, Ipswich Afternoon tea and supper cruises are scheduled for various dates between 2 June and 6 October.

Topsail Charters, Maldon Public cruises are planned this season from Maldon, Brightlingsea, Harwich, Ipswich and London.

## THAMES

Woolwich Ferry is the only service running on the Thames, but with a reduced one-ship service.

Salter's Steamers currently advertise that all services will be for "pre booked parties of 40 or more".

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST CLARE returned to Portsmouth on 26 January after her refit in Falmouth.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON left Falmouth on 23 January to return to Southampton.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER was restricted to carry only freight from 11 to 17 January because of the virus, and the CONDOR LIBERATION made an extra trip from Poole to the islands on the 10th. The CONDOR RAPIDE was at Falmouth from 15 January to 4 February, and both fast ferries are now at Poole.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The CORSAIRE DES ILES II went to St Sampsons for refit on 15 December and is being renamed CORSAIRE DE SERCQ.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Coastal trips are due to resume in May, with the first trip to Sidmouth on 6 May and day trips to Torquay and Brixham on Thursdays from 20 May to 23 September. All-day geology cruises are on 29 June and 13 September, and evening cruises on the Exe to Countess Wear are on 25 June and 22 August.

Plymouth Boat Trips The Cremyll ferry continues to run during the lockdown. The cruise programme, from 3 April to 31 October, includes 20 trips to Cotehele and Calstock, 9 evening trips to Calstock, 20 cruises to the River Yealm, 12 to the Lynher and 19 Breakwater cruises.

Torpoint Ferry The LYNHER II broke down in mid river on 27 January and passengers were aboard for over two hours before the ferry was towed to Torpoint. The LYNHER II returned to service on 3 February.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III is now scheduled to start on 27 March and sail daily (except Sundays) until 11 October then on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays until 7 November. There are double trips on 5 June and on Saturdays from 24 July to 14 August. Sunday trips are from 4 July to 12 September.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG left Sharpness on 13 January and, after a night at Lundy, arrived back in Bideford the next day.

#### NORTH WEST

Wyre Council The Fleetwood to Knott End ferry has been suspended since 6 November.

#### MISCELLANY

The NORTHERN BELLE was broken up on 1 February after a preservation group failed to raise the needed funds. Her whole career, from 1926 to 2013, was spent on the Stonehouse-Cremyll ferry across the Tamar. Built as the steamboat ARMADILLO, she was rebuilt as the motor vessel NORTHERN BELLE in 1947 and continued to serve Cremyll until she was damaged in collision with a naval vessel on 18 December 2013.

# TRIP OUT

**March 2021**

There are still many uncertainties in the current pandemic and nobody can be sure when life might return to normal. Most boat operators are being cautious and are unable to make firm commitments for the coming season. I have therefore decided that there would be little point in preparing a new edition of my guide to passenger boat services until 2022. Copies of the 2019 edition are still available and changes will be recorded here and in the list of amendments on the website.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Under government plans for England, some outdoor activities will be allowed from 29 March, pubs and restaurants could start to serve at outdoor tables no earlier than 12 April, while indoor venues and some international travel may be possible from 17 May.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

River Escapes, Newcastle The RIVER ESCAPES LATIS has been advertised for sale after being laid-up for over five years. The former Tilbury ferry CATHERINE went to the Tyne in about 1990.  
Nexus The ferry service has been suspended since 5 February following damage to the North Shields landing. Replacement buses run via the Tyne Tunnel.

## EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich The ORWELL LADY's first cruise is due on 17 April.

## THAMES

Transport for London has received two bids to run a temporary ferry to replace Hammersmith Bridge, from City Cruises and Thames Clippers. The ferry is not expected to start before the summer.

The Henley Royal Regatta committee has decided the event cannot go ahead as planned from 29 June, but they hope it can be held later in the summer.

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Cruises from Chatham and Southend are due to resume on 20 May.

City Cruises plan to resume on 3 April.

Thames Clippers plan to resume on 29 March.

Thames River Boats will be unable to run between Westminster and Kew because of the closure of Hammersmith Bridge, but plan to run twice daily between Kew, Richmond and Hampton Court, as well as 45-minute cruises from Richmond.

Turk Launches The NEW SOUTHERN BELLE, RICHMOND ROYALE and YARMOUTH BELLE went to Chatham on 11 February for refit.

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice A limited service between Little Venice and Camden is due to resume on 13 April with no calls at the Zoo.

Basingstoke Canal Society plans to resume trips from Odiham in the JOHN PINKERTON on 17 May.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The VICTORIA OF WIGHT was dry-docked in Falmouth in February.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED OSPREY was at Falmouth for refit from 22 February to 5 March.

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John Lewis Partnership, Poole The CASTELLO, the boat used to take guests to the private Brownsea Castle hotel, is being replaced by a new 33-passenger catamaran of the same name built by BW SeaCat at Portchester.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth, plan to resume river cruises on 17 May with the first coastal cruise on 26 May.

J & M Rackley, Starcross, don't expect to be able to run any trips from Dawlish this year. They haven't run there since 2019.

Western Lady Ferry Service The WESTERN LADY VI was sold last year and sailed to Maldon in Essex. Built at Saul near Gloucester in 1981 as the DEVON PRINCESS II, she was later renamed TORBAY PRINCESS then WESTERN LADY VI. Her new owners' plans are not known. The Torquay-Brixham service is to be run by the parent company's DITTISHAM PRINCESS and DART VENTURER this year.

Funfish Trips, Brixham, hope to resume trips on 12 April.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co plans to resume river cruises on 29 March.

Plymouth Boat Trips Voyager Boatyard is to design and build a 150-passenger electric boat for the Cremyll ferry.

Fal River The St Mawes ferry is to resume on 29 March.

King Harry Steam Ferry Co The service was suspended from 20 February to 3 March while the ferry was in dry dock in Falmouth.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III's season is now due to start on 5 April and in April she will run only on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, carrying passengers and cargo while the GRY MARITHA is in dry dock.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Appledore Instow Ferry plans to start on 1 April.

J Barbeary, Ilfracombe Bookings are now being taken for this season's cruises which run from 1 April to 31 October.

#### WEST WALES

Carmarthen Bay Ferries will not run this year because of uncertainty over the pandemic.

#### NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries The Manchester Ship Canal cruises are now expected to start on 16 July.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co With the island still closed to visitors, the start of the MANANNAN's season has been delayed to 25 May.

# TRIP OUT

**April 2021**

As the country starts to return to what we hope might be more like normal life, boat operators are all hoping for a better season than 2020. I have tried to list dates when services resume, but changes are possible so anyone planning a trip should check before travelling.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Further grants under the government's Culture Recovery Fund were announced on 2 April and recipients include Chichester Canal Trading (£18 200), Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust (£154 900), French Brothers (£53 300), Lundy (£250 000), SHIELDHALL (£61 200), Thames RiverCruise (£50 200) and Ullswater 'Steamers' (£425 000).

Waverley Excursions hope that the WAVERLEY can sail on the Clyde in June and go south at the end of August, but she will not visit Oban or the Western Isles.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

The National Trust has stopped the Seahouses boat operators from landing on Inner Farne and Staple Islands, and is considering a system of online bookings to limit numbers of visitors.

Berwick Boat Trips The BORDER ROSE has been sold to Calum Mackenzie of Plockton to replace the SULA MHOR (ex NEW PRINCESS MAUD), wrecked in February 2020. She left by road on 29 March for her new Scottish home.

A & T Douglas, Seahouses, resumed on 29 March. Trips to land on Holy Island are on 16 dates between 23 July and 8 September.

G D Shiel, Seahouses, will be running trips to land on Longstone Island, as usual.

Nexus The ferry resumed on 21 March

Whitby Coastal Cruises resume on 12 April.

City Cruises, York, resume on 17 May.

## EAST ANGLIA

Mississippi River Boats, Horning, will resume on 17 May.

Broads Tours, Wroxham, also plan to restart trips on 17 May.

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services The HARBOUR FERRY has been repaired after last September's storm damage and the ferry service resumed on 29 March. Seal-watching cruises have also resumed.

## THAMES

Sandwich River Bus The owner, Colin Carr, is to rename the business Captain Carr's Riverbus and run from Pluck's Gutter on the nearby river Stour. He has bought the FERRY NYMPH, at one time owned by Harvey's in Poole but used privately for many years.

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Trips from Queenborough to Southend start on 22 May. Cruises round the Isle of Sheppey are scheduled for 15 and 29 August.

Viscount Cruises The Sunday evening cruise from Greenwich is due to run from 2 May to 26 September.

City Cruises Services resume on 20 May. The boats are having a new livery, painted blue instead of red, and the MILLENNIUM DIAMOND is the first to carry the new colours.

Thames River Sightseeing Hourly sailings from Westminster, Embankment, St Katharine and Greenwich started on 2 April and will run at weekends in April.

Thames Clippers A service between Woolwich Arsenal and Battersea Power Station resumed on 29 March. Services to Chelsea and Putney, and the Rotherhithe ferry are still suspended. The company has won a contract to run a temporary ferry while Hammersmith Bridge is closed, starting later this year.

The London Eye reopens and river cruises resume on 17 May.

Thames River Boats The 45-minute cruises from Richmond in the PRINCESS FREDA are due to start on 12 April and sailings between Richmond and Hampton Court in the COCKNEY SPARROW on 17 April.

Colliers Launches Brokers have advertised the QUEEN ELIZABETH for sale for £255 000.

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice Trips resume on 13 April.

Walker's Quay, Camden The JENNY WREN's public trips resume on 12 April.

JGF Passenger Boats, Walton-on-Thames, resume on 12 April.

French Brothers 40-minute trips from Windsor resume on 12 April. A Runnymede-Windsor trip and a 2-hour cruise upstream to Bray run from 17 April to 26 September, and a new 2-hour downstream cruise from Windsor runs from 1 May to 19 September.

Hobbs of Henley 1-hour cruises run daily from 12 April.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Cruises run at weekends from 17 April and daily in school holidays (except from 23 to 31 August for the Reading Festival). Afternoon cream tea cruises to Shiplake or Pangbourne are on 12 dates. There will be a trip to Goring and a cruise from there towards Moulsoford on 20 May, 10 and 24 June, 8 July, and 5 and 19 August.

Salter's Steamers All services will be for pre-booked groups, apart from 40-minute cruises from Oxford and Marlow.

#### SOUTH COAST

Baker Trayte Marine, Portsmouth The Hayling ferry resumed on 30 March.

Wightlink The WIGHT SUN was dry-docked in Falmouth in March. From 29 March, the Fishbourne service has been hourly and the Yarmouth service runs every day but still every two hours. The Ryde service is still suspended.

Hamble-Warsash Ferry resumed on 2 April.

Red Funnel Ferries On the East Cowes service, an hourly three-ship timetable is scheduled from 8 to 19 April and from 13 May to 1 November, with two ships running at other times. The RED OSPREY was not ready to run so a reduced service will run on 8 and 9 April. From 12 April the "Red Jet" service is increased to 12 round trips on weekdays.

Blue Funnel Cruises Public cruises are due to resume on 18 May. Local councils have agreed to provide £67 500 for the Hythe ferry which was threatened with closure. The HYTHE SCENE is to be refitted ready to restart the ferry in June.

Solent & Wightline Cruises Trips will resume on 17 May.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL's season is now due to start on 26 June.

'Coral Star', Yarmouth, will run to Lympington from 12 April to 31 October, with a lunchtime cruise to the Needles on some days.

Needles Pleasure Cruises plan to resume on 12 April.

Mudford Ferry resumed on 1 April.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth, plan to resume bay cruises on 12 April, with trips to Swanage on some Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

City Cruises, Poole, resume on 17 May.

National Trust Brownsea Island reopens on 12 April and until 16 May visits must be booked with the NT, with Greenslades' boats taking visitors from Poole.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The fast ferries are due to resume on 21 May.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth The PRIDE OF EXMOUTH was in Polruan from 7 to 22 March for her annual refit.

J & M Rackley, Starcross, hope to start the Exmouth ferry around 20 April.

Western Lady Ferry Service will start on 13 April, and run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.

S S Jamieson, Torquay, has retired after running wildlife cruises for many years. The SHEPHERD LASS did not run last year.

Funfish Trips, Brixham, have bought the SHEPHERD LASS from Mr Jamieson.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Sailings to Totnes are scheduled for various dates, starting on 18 May.

Greenway Ferry resumed on 1 April.

Mount Batten Ferry, Plymouth, resumed on 1 April.

Plymouth Boat Trips The Cawsand service resumed on 2 April.

Dockyard cruises resume on 12 April.

Mevagissey Ferries will run from 26 April to 3 October.

J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) Cruises to the Helford River are due to start on 12 April.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III made her first trip of the year on 5 April.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Appledore Instow Ferry is now expected to resume on 21 June.

J Barbeary, Ilfracombe The season starts on 12 April.

Lundy Company The island reopens to visitors on 13 April, but numbers of day trippers will be limited.

Bristol Packet The first Avon Gorge cruise is on 21 April.

Matthew of Bristol Public cruises start on 22 May.

Beese's Riverside Bar will reopen on 7 May.

WEST WALES

Tenby Boat Trips resume on 26 April.

D W Evans, New Quay, will also resume on 26 April.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Severn Leisure Cruises, Upton-upon-Severn The CONWAY CASTLE has been sold and was towed by the tug KINGSTON to Cowes where she arrived on 8 March. She had been on the Severn since 1976 after 12 seasons with the River Dart Steamboat Co, but did not sail in 2020. She is now being refitted, possibly for a static role.

Avon Boating, Stratford Public cruises resume on 17 May.

Sabrina, Shrewsbury, resumes on 12 April.

The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge, hope to restart public trips on 2 July.

Lincoln Boat Trips The season starts on 13 April.

NORTH WEST

Seacoast Safaris (Beaumaris Marine Services) hope to start on 26 April.

Welsh Canal Holiday Craft, Llangollen Horse-drawn trips resume on 26 April.

ChesterBoat 30-minute trips resume on 12 April and 2-hour cruises to Iron Bridge are expected to start on 19 May.

Liverpool Boat Charter The FLOATING GRACE restaurant boat resumes on 14 May.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Public cruises start on 7 May and run on various dates until 7 November from Sutton Weaver, Acton Bridge and Anderton.

Kittywake Canal Cruises, Wigan Public cruises resume on 17 May.

Kingfisher Cruises, Lancaster Cruises resume on 21 June.

Coniston Launch will resume on 12 April.

Windermere Lake Cruises A limited service resumed on 31 March.

Keswick Launch Co Services resume on 12 April, from Keswick and Hawes End only.

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The GONDOLA resumes on 12 April.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The boats will start sailing on 16 April.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Because of low tides and silting in Douglas, schedules were amended between 30 March and 3 April. The MANANNAN replaced the BEN-MY-CHREE for three round trips.

# TRIP OUT

**May 2021**

As we hope that life is returning to normal, boat operators are trying to recover from the long disruption to their trade. I have tried to indicate which services are running but there will inevitably be changes. In most cases, passenger capacities are reduced and some operators require online booking.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY went to Greenock on 21 April for dry-docking.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Berwick Boat Trips has bought the ISLAND CRUISE, originally at Tenby and then Looe, and she has been renamed BORDER BELLE.

W Shiel, Seahouses As well as cruises round the Farne Islands, trips to land on Holy Island are offered on 52 dates with times depending on tides.

RiverShack, Stockton-on-Tees The JUNO started her season on 1 May.

Whitby Coastal Cruises Trips resumed on 14 April.

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE sailed to Hull on 14 April for dry docking.

City Cruises, York, resumed on 1 May, not as originally announced.

## EAST ANGLIA

Deben Cruises, Waldringfield Trips for organised groups resume on 22 May.

'Viking Saga', Maldon Trips are expected to start after 21 June.

## THAMES

Hire Cruisers, Maidstone The KENTISH LADY II resumes on 22 May.

Viscount Cruises The Sunday evening cruise from Greenwich will not run this year.

City Cruises The ELEANOR ROSE is reportedly being moved to run from Poole.

Thames River Sightseeing continue to run at weekends until 16 May.

A new timetable from 22 May has daily sailings every 40 minutes from Westminster to Greenwich, calling at Embankment, Festival, Bankside and St Katharine (now renamed Tower Bridge Quay).

Thames Clippers have resumed running to Chelsea and Putney but the Rotherhithe ferry is still suspended.

Turk Launches began running to Hampton Court on 24 April and to Richmond on the 25th. Only the NEW SOUTHERN BELLE, RICHMOND ROYALE and YARMOUTH BELLE are in service this season.

Parr Boats, Kingston 50-minute non-landing cruises have been running at weekends since 17 April.

Jason's Trip, Little Venice, resumed on 16 April.

Hidden Depths Canal Cruises, King's Cross Public trips between King's Cross and Islington in the 12-seat LAPWING run at weekends from 1 May to 26 September.

French Brothers A Maidenhead-Windsor service runs from 1 May to 19 September daily except Mondays. 45-minute cruises from Runnymede and 40-minute cruises from Maidenhead resumed on 1 May.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA will offer short public trips from Bourne End on 29-31 May and from Henley for the Thames Traditional Boat Festival on 27-30 August.

SOUTH COAST

Bodiam Boating Station The DANNIE LEE will not run this year and river cruises are expected to resume in 2022.

Gosport Ferry Cruises will run on 18 dates between 24 June and 31 August, including the Hamble and Medina rivers, cruise ships at Southampton and day trips to land in Cowes.

Wightlink The Ryde service resumed on 29 April. From 17 May the Fishbourne route will have three ferries with sailings every 40 minutes, and the Lymington route has two ferries with sailings approximately every hour.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL will leave for Falmouth on 14 May to go in to dry dock.

Buckler's Hard River cruises in Blue Funnel's OLIVER B resume on 17 May.

City Cruises, Poole, resumed on 1 May, not as originally announced.

National Trust Brownsea Island reopened on 21 April with access by Greenslades' boats but tickets must be booked online with the National Trust.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole Harbour cruises resume on 17 May.

Coastline Cruises, Weymouth, resumed on 1 May.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR RAPIDE is to be replaced by Brittany Ferries' NORMANDIE EXPRESS which is to be renamed CONDOR VOYAGER. The "Rapide" went from St-Malo to Poole on 14 April and is laid-up there. Services from both Poole and St-Malo are due to resume on 21 May.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The CORSAIRE DE SERCQ's refit has been completed and she is due in service this month, replacing the SARK BELLE which is to be sold.

Jersey Bus & Boat Tours Cruises resumed on 12 April.

Manche Iles Express has not announced a date for services to start.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth, started doing river trips and 1-hour coastal cruises on 1 May. Jurassic Coast cruises resume on 20 May, the first Torquay and Brixham trip is on the 27th and the first to Sidmouth on 4 June.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The ferry resumed on 1 May.

Western Lady Ferry Service The DART VENTURER opened the season on 13 April.

Paignton Pleasure Cruises have been running cruises to view the idle cruise ships anchored in Tor Bay.

Paignton Belle The 12-passenger PAIGNTON BELLE has been running since 2019. This year she is joined by the PRIDE OF PAIGNTON, built as the ADRIAN GILBERT for the Dartmouth-Kingswear ferry and most recently Ken Pilson's PRIDE OF FALMOUTH. Trips from Paignton include cruises with fish and chips.

Funfish Trips, Brixham Cruises from Brixham resumed on 12 April and cruises from Torquay will start in mid-May.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co 1-hour cruises from Dartmouth are on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays until 15 May, then daily from the 17th. The KINGSWEAR CASTLE has been overhauled and is expected to return to service later this month.

Dittisham Ferries, Dartmouth, resumed on 29 March.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co started on 26 April.

T J Tucker, Salcombe The service to South Sands resumed on 10 April.

Tiverton Canal Co Trips resume on 21 June.

Drake's Island, Plymouth Guided tours resumed in April.  
Sam Pill (Cornwall Pleasure Cruises), Falmouth The LOOK AHEAD II began running from the Custom House Quay on 15 April.

Fal River The Enterprise Boats will run from Falmouth and St Mawes to Trelissick from 17 May to 31 October. On 12 dates one trip will continue at high tide to Truro, but the regular service to Malpas and Truro has ended. The first Truro trip is on 25 May and tickets are on sale.

A Thomas, Penzance Trips resumed in April.

St Ives Boat Services resume on 24 May.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The Penzance dry dock, leased by the company since 2009, is to close so the SCILLONIAN III will have to go elsewhere for refits.

Jubilee Queen, Padstow, resumed on 14 April. The JUBILEE QUEEN's builder, owner and skipper, Brian Chapman, died in 2017 at the age of 80 but she is still run by his family.

Padstow Harbour Commissioners The ferry resumed on 30 March.

Rock Water Taxi The evening ferry service between Rock and Padstow is now run by Wavehunters.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boats will resume on 17 May, offering 1-hour non-landing cruises from the City Centre.

Pulteney Cruisers, Bath, resumed on 17 April.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Bradford-on-Avon Public trips resume on 19 May.

Cardiff Boat resumed on 1 May.

Cardiff Cruises resumed on 26 April.

Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust Short trips from Goytre resumed on 30 April using a 12-seat boat.

#### WEST WALES

Caldey Boat Service The island reopened to day visitors on 1 May.

Dale Sailing Co, Marloes Trips to Skomer resumed on 27 April.

Thousand Islands Expeditions, St David's resumed on 27 April.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Ye Old Ferrie Inn, Symonds Yat A new ferry has replaced the one damaged by floods in February 2020. It runs on a cable suspended over the river.

English Holiday Cruises, Gloucester Cruises start on 17 May and most are now sold out.

The River King, Stourport, resumed in April.

Bancroft Cruisers, Stratford, hope to start sightseeing trips in June.

Canal and River Tours, Stratford, plan to resume on 17 May.

'Countess of Evesham', Stratford, will also restart on 17 May.

B&MK Waterway Enterprises, Bedford The JOHN BUNYAN begins running on 31 May.

Sherborne Wharf, Birmingham Trips have restarted.

Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust Boat trips resumed on 14 April but trips into the tunnel will not start until 17 May.

Georgie's Canal Cruises, Teddesley, resume on 21 May.

Princess River Cruises, Nottingham, plan to resume on 21 June.

Newark Castle Line hopes to resume in late June.

Rutland Water Cruises resumed on 12 April.

Friends of the Cromford Canal plan to resume public trips after 21 June.

#### NORTH WEST

Barmouth Ferry resumed in mid-April.

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E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon, hope to resume in late May.

S Zalot (Starida Sea Services), Beaumaris Cruises to Puffin Island resume on 11 May.

Welsh Canal Holiday Craft, Llangollen Trips in the THOMAS TELFORD to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct resume on 18 May.

Bridgewater Cruises, Worsley Cruises in the FRANCIS EGERTON resume after 17 May.

City centre Cruises, Manchester Public cruises start on 23 May.

Manchester River Cruises The PRINCESS KATHERINE offered hourly cruises from Salford on 24 and 25 April.

Mersey Ferries River cruises from Liverpool and Woodside resume on 17 May

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Public trips are now due to run from 2 July to 1 October.

Canal Boat Cruises, Blackburn, resume on 19 May.

J Cleasby, Barrow, is retiring and the ferry will reopen on 17 May under a new owner.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE was at Birkenhead for dry docking from 13 April. She returns to service on 13 May. Liverpool sailings in the MANANNAN start on 1 July.

# TRIP OUT

**June 2021**

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Waverley Excursions After her dry docking and repairs to her bow, the WAVERLEY returned to Glasgow on 13 May. She is expected to return to service later this month but no timetables are available.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Berwick Boat Trips The BORDER BELLE (ex ISLAND CRUISE) made her first trips on 22 May.

River Escapes, Newcastle, have not restarted and all trips are cancelled while staff are on furlough.

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE's first trips were on 26 May. She is being chartered by the RSPB for bird-watching cruises but passenger numbers will be limited so tickets should be booked in advance.

City Cruises, York The ELEANOR ROSE from City Cruises' London fleet is to run in York this year.

## THAMES

City Cruises The ELEANOR ROSE left for Hull on 11 May, towed by the tug PULLMOOR.

Thames Clippers The Canary Wharf-Rotherhithe ferry resumed on 21 May.

Woods' Silver Fleet The SILVER SOCKEYE will start a programme of 45-minute "Terrible Thames" cruises from Tower Bridge Quay (St Katharine Pier) on 17 July, with a "horrible histories" performance by the Birmingham Stage Company.

River Boat Charters The MCA has condemned the HENLEY's hull and she is for sale for static use at a price of £30 000. Built in 1896 for Salters, she has run in London since 1977.

French Brothers The Runnymede to Hampton Court service runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 15 June to 2 September (except 10 and 12 August). 1-hour steamboat cruises from Windsor run on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1 June to 25 September (except 10 and 14 August, and 4 September), and on certain Sundays. Longer steamboat trips are usually on two days a month.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The summer "Red Jet" timetable shows a one-boat service with sailings at intervals of one hour and 20 minutes.

Blue Funnel Cruises The Hythe ferry resumed on 29 May using the JENNY BLUE. The HYTHE SCENE is being re-engined.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL left Southampton on 5 June for dry docking in Falmouth.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth The first trips to Swanage were on 5 June and they will run on Saturdays this month.

Dorset Cruises, Poole, advertise party cruises on Friday and Saturday evenings, from 25 June, using City Cruises' HARBOUR SCENE.

City Cruises, Poole The SOLENT CAT is again being chartered from Solent & Wightline Cruises and went to Poole from Cowes on 12 May. She began running on 26 May and will be there until October providing extra capacity on Swanage and Jurassic Coast trips.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole Wareham trips run on various dates until 29 September.

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### CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR RAPIDE began running from St-Malo on 20 May, but services were cancelled because of low passenger numbers, and she returned to Poole on 25 May. The COMMODORE CLIPPER will make extra trips to St-Malo on 29 May, and 5 and 13 June. The CONDOR VOYAGER went to St-Malo on 29 May and carried out trials in Jersey and Guernsey on 2-3 June, then went to Poole.

Herm Island The owners of the island plan to run their own service to Guernsey and a 14-m 70-passenger catamaran, the ISLE OF HERM, is being built by Blyth Catamarans in Essex.

Manche Iles Express will not run this year because of the pandemic.

### WEST OF ENGLAND

S & M Garrett, Topsham, resumed on 3 June using the 12-passenger REGNUM, while the SEA DREAM II needs "some restoration".

Western Lady Ferry Service From 18 May, sailings are every day with a two-boat service except on Mondays and Fridays when only one boat will run.

Paignton Belle The PRIDE OF PAIGNTON began running 1-hour cruises from Torquay to view idle cruise ships on 30 May.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE started her season on 18 May. The day trip from Torquay and Brixham to Dartmouth runs on various dates from 19 May.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Details of replacement ships, designed by BMT, have been announced. The new "Scillonian" will be 72 m long and carry 600 passengers and cargo at 18 knots. The GRY MARITHA's replacement will be 45 m long and carry 12 passengers. A Shipbuilder will be chosen from a list of 32 around the world.



### NORTH WEST

Anglo Welsh, Trevor The PENNINE MOONRAKER, bought from Saddleworth Canal Cruises in 2019, has been refitted and renamed LITTLE STAR - SEREN FACH ready to start cruises across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Mersey Ferries Merseytravel has decided that the cost of replacement vessels is unaffordable so the present ferries will be refurbished to extend their lives by ten years or more. The first Manchester Ship Canal cruise is now scheduled for 10 August.

### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE returned to Douglas on 2 June after a prolonged refit in Birkenhead and is now running to Heysham.

# TRIP OUT

**July 2021**

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Under government plans for England from 19 July, covid restrictions will end so boats should be able to operate as normal.

Waverley Excursions A timetable of Clyde sailings from 24 June to 22 August was published on 14 June, but her return to service was delayed and her first trips were on 29 June. Sailings after 22 August and a possible visit to England will depend on virus restrictions.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

A & T Douglas, Seahouses, resumed trips to land on Inner Farne on 21 June but the National Trust is allowing only one trip a day with a maximum of 32 passengers.

W Shiel, Seahouses, also have limited landings on Inner Farne.

G D Shiel, Seahouses, has trips to land on Inner Farne and Longstone islands.

Standedge Tunnel Visitor Centre, Marsden Boat trips into the tunnel are due to resume on 19 July.

## EAST ANGLIA

Waveney River Tours, Oulton Broad, resumed on 26 June.

National Trust, Orford Ness, reopened in May with tickets booked in advance for fixed times.

## THAMES

Woolwich Ferry The Unite union has been holding 24-hour strikes since May over pay and employment conditions, and these are due to continue on Mondays and Fridays in July.

Thames Party Boats The business was bought by a Mr Ali Johnson in February but the VISCOUNT continues to do charters in London. The contact telephone still ends in 1908, the year the VISCOUNT was built.

Thames Leisure The DUTCH MASTER has new owners, Thames Leisure London Ltd, and will continue as a party boat in London. The sailing barge WILL continues under separate ownership.

Thames Luxury Charters The DIXIE QUEEN was at Lowestoft from 27 May to 23 June for dry docking.

River Boat Charters The HENLEY has been sold for private use and has been seen moored at Weybridge.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA returned to service on 20 June with a wedding party, her first passengers since September 2019.

## SOUTH COAST

Littlehampton Ferry resumed on 29 May.

Wightlink The VICTORIA OF WIGHT suffered a mechanical problem on 15 June and the Fishbourne route was reduced to a two-ship service which is due to continue until 13 July.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL arrived back in Southampton on 16 June after dry docking in Falmouth and made her first passenger trip on the 26th.

National Trust Visits to Brownsea Island must be booked with the Trust. Boats are from Poole, by Brownsea Island Ferries, and there is no service from Sandbanks.

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CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR VOYAGER began running from St-Malo on 21 June.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The CORSAIRE DE SERCQ was open to residents of Sark on 1 July and made a cruise round the island before starting regular service the next day. Coincidentally the former BON MARIN DE SERK started running between Kasnäs and Örö for her new Finnish owners on 1 July renamed BON MARIN.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Trips from Torquay and Brixham to Dartmouth are now on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Tiverton Canal Co plans to reopen on 19 July.

Fal River With the end of the regular service to Truro, the ENTERPRISE and ENTERPRISE III have been offered for sale.

Truro River Cruises has been formed by Rhos Newman, Simon Michael and Matthew Repper to run from Truro to Falmouth. The TRURO BELLE, formerly Ken Pilson's BLACK SWAN, began running on 1 June.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet The owners' café on the narrow boat GREENSHANK and an adjoining barge sank in the early hours of 15 June. They have been refloated and will be dry docked. The company's passenger boats were not damaged.

Swansea Community Boat Trust The COPPER JACK resumed on 30 June.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Kingfisher Cruises, Symonds Yat, resumed in April.

National Waterways Museum Gloucester hopes the QUEEN BOADICEA II will return to service in July.

Worcester Boat Trips THE EARL has not returned to service since sinking in October 2018.

Norbury Wharf The SHROPSHIRE STAR will resume in March 2022.

Trent River Cruises, Nottingham, resumed on 22 June.

Newark Castle Line plan to resume on 21 July.

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips resumed public trips on 27 June. Sea cruises are on 11 dates from 8 July to 30 October; river cruises are every Wednesday and Sunday.

NORTH WEST

'Judith Mary II', Whaley Bridge The boat has been offering take-away food and drinks at Whaley Bridge but is due to resume cruises in July.

Lancaster Canal Cruises, Garstang The JUNGLE QUEEN resumed in June.

# TRIP OUT

**August 2021**

Now that the worst of the pandemic seems to be over in these islands, most boat operators are able to offer a more normal service, but there are still difficulties ahead. Most have suffered a second season of reduced or even no revenue, while loans need to be repaid and money has to be found for boats' refits. Another worry is the MCA's tougher regulations which will impact some boats in tidal waterways. We must hope for some fine weather in the rest of this summer so that businesses can recover.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions Sailings from 27 to 30 July had to be cancelled for repairs to a broken windlass. Additional Clyde sailings have been advertised for 23-29 August and 16-17 October, and she will presumably spend the intervening period in the south.

## EAST ANGLIA

Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe & Rowhedge Ferry resumed on 26 June and will run at weekends until 24 October.

## THAMES

Hammersmith Bridge reopened to river traffic and to pedestrians and cyclists on 17 July.

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Trips between Queenborough and Southend and cruises from Queenborough to the wreck of the RICHARD MONTGOMERY will run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in August. Thames Clippers will offer a day trip from Gravesend to North Greenwich and London Bridge City on 7 and 14 August, but both are now sold out.

Thames River Boats There were extra sailings from Richmond for the Hampton Court Garden Festival and the CONNAUGHT ran on 10 and 11 July, making her first public trips since 2019. Sailings from Westminster to Kew resume on 16 August after a break of one year owing to the closure of Hammersmith Bridge. Departures are from Westminster at 1100 and 1430, and from Kew at 1230 and 1700. Additional service from Westminster to Hampton Court may run on some dates.

Colliers Launches The PRINCESS FREDA is again expected to go to Reading to run ferry services to the Reading Festival which this year is on 27-29 August.

Sunbury Ferry A new ferry service started on 3 July between Sunbury and the Surrey bank near Walton-on-Thames. A purpose-built 8-passenger boat is manned by volunteers and the service runs at weekends until early September.

Salter's Steamers Of the traditional boats, the GORING and OXFORD are laid up this year. The Bunkfest event at Wallingford in September has been cancelled so Salters will not be running there.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The VICTORIA OF WIGHT's bow ramp was damaged at Fishbourne on 26 July and she was off service for three days.

Red Funnel Ferries A crew shortage led to a reduced two-ship car ferry service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in July.

Solent & Wightline Cruises The Cowes to Portsmouth day trip is available every day in the school summer holidays.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth Trips to Swanage are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 45-minute cruises on other days. In July the DORSET BELLE did some school trips along the Jurassic Coast beyond Swanage to the Dancing Ledge.

National Trust Visits to Brownsea Island are still limited by the Trust, but do not need to be booked online. A boat is currently provided by Brownsea Island Ferries but from 23 August to 31 October Greenslades will run the service.

#### CHANNEL ISLANDS

Herm Island The ISLE OF HERM arrived in Guernsey on 9 July, but is not yet in service.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Dartmouth-Totnes sailings are daily except Fridays in August, then on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in September, also on Wednesdays until 15 September.

Tiverton Canal Co resumed on 23 July, delayed by the weather which has too hot for the horses to work.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Stoke Bruerne Boat Company Public trips resumed on 19 July.

Newark Castle Line The SONNING resumed on 29 July, and runs daily except Mondays and Tuesdays.

#### NORTH WEST

National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port Trips are running on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays using the 12-passenger OVER THE RAINBOW of the Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust.

Mersey Ferries This year's Manchester Ship Canal cruises have been cancelled because of the pandemic.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Cruises resumed on 23 July and the season has been extended to 11 October.

Boatel Party Cruises, Chorley, resumed on 24 July.

Windermere Lake Cruises still have limited passenger numbers though advance booking is not essential. From 19 July to 31 October, there are eight sailings daily between Lakeside and Bowness and 16 between Bowness and Ambleside.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The boats' capacities are still limited and advance booking is advised. Two boats run between Glenridding and Pooley Bridge, and a third boat runs between Glenridding and Aira Force.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The island reopened to visitors on 28 June and the MANANNAN began running to Liverpool on 1 July.

# TRIP OUT

**September 2021**

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Waverley Excursions announced on 17 August that the WAVERLEY would not be coming south this year because of a shortage of crew; she will run on the Clyde until the last trip of the season on 19 September. Sailings were cancelled on 10 and 11 August for repairs to a valve, and on 30 August because of a boiler problem.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses The GLAD TIDINGS II is being offered for sale.  
City Cruises, York Sightseeing trips run daily until 26 November, then daily "festive" trips continue to 23 December.

## EAST ANGLIA

Searles Sea Tours, Hunstanton Seal trips run until 25 September.  
Topsail Charters, Maldon The HYDROGEN ran aground off Maldon Quay on 1 August when trying to avoid swimmers. Some of the 30 passengers were taken off by a small boat but the rest were taken on the VIKING SAGA after nine hours on the HYDROGEN waiting for the tide to rise.  
'Viking Saga', Maldon, has not run any trips this year.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Trips from Chatham, Queenborough and Southend continue to 30 October. There will be 1-hour cruises from Chatham on 18 and 19 September for the Chatham Reach Festival.  
London Party Boats has bought the ARCADIAN KING EDWARD from King Cruises.  
Thames River Boats On 3, 4 and 5 September the CONNAUGHT ran the first trips from Westminster to Hampton Court since 2019. The trips are being repeated on 17, 18 and 19 September, and 1 and 2 October, leaving Westminster at 1030 or 1100, and Hampton Court at 1500.  
Thames Rivercruise, Reading There will be a sailing up the Kennet to Reading Abbey on 11 September for the "Down at the Abbey" music festival.

## SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry In July cruises were cancelled for the rest of the season because of a shortage of crew due to covid.  
Wightlink There will be additional services on 16-19 September for the Isle of Wight Festival, with a chartered vessel providing some extra Portsmouth-Ryde sailings, and increased schedules on both car ferry routes.  
Blue Funnel Cruises The HYTHE SCENE returned to service in August.  
Solent & Wightline Cruises was renamed Solent Cruises in May.  
Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge broke down on 26 August and has been out of service since.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Exeter Cruises resumed on 17 July.  
Funfish Trips, Brixham Trips from Brixham, Paignton and Torquay to Teignmouth run on Wednesdays and Saturdays until 30 October.

Bantham Estate took over the ferry to Cockleridge from Mr Dawes after the 2019 season. The service runs until 26 September this year.

#### WEST WALES

SeaMôr, New Quay, run dolphin-watching trips with a 12-seater boat and this year bought the larger CERISMAR TWO from Beaumaris

#### NORTH WEST

Seacoast Safaris (Beaumaris Marine Services) The CERISMAR TWO has been sold and is now at New Quay.

Anderton Boat Lift Boat trips resumed in July.

Mersey Ferries Services continue from Liverpool and Woodside only, while Seacombe remains closed for refurbishment.

Canal Boat Cruises, Blackburn Cruises resumed on 19 July.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANANNAN's season ends on 31 October, leaving the BEN-MY-CHREE to run the usual winter service from Heysham.

#### MISCELLANY

THE BELLE which sank in Gallions Marina, North Woolwich, in June 2020 has been broken up. She was used as a passenger boat from 1947 until 2014, running from Southend, Westminster, Falmouth, Plymouth, Exmouth, Poole, Brighton and Littlehampton as the SOUTHEND BELLE, WESTMINSTER BELLE, MAID OF WAREHAM, MAID OF EXMOUTH, DEVON BELLE V, DEVON BELLE and THE BELLE.

The HENLEY was sold this year, as reported in the July issue, after 125 years as a passenger boat on the Thames, and is being converted as a houseboat. These pictures are from a postcard produced by her then owners, J J Shearing and Sons, to mark her centenary in 1996, and show her as built for Salters and as she was in London in the 1990s.



# TRIP OUT

**October 2021**

The pandemic has led to a second poor season for most operators, with restrictions in the first part of the summer, no foreign visitors, but most British people unable to go abroad. In England and Wales, the weather at the height of the season was unsettled with cloudy days and below average temperatures in August.

Geoffrey Hamer

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## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

River Escapes, Newcastle The RIVER ESCAPES FORTUNA has been sold to City Cruises to run from Poole. She was refitted on the Tees then towed to Poole by the tug GPS CAMBRIA. Originally Blue Funnel's ISLAND SCENE, she has been in Newcastle since 1993. River Escapes has not operated this year.

Yorkshire Hire Cruisers, Leeds, have not run this year and appear to have ceased trading.

## THAMES

Thames River Sightseeing From 4 October, there is a three-boat service with hourly sailings from Westminster via Embankment, Festival, Bankside and Tower Bridge Quay to Greenwich.

Thames Clippers Further day trips from Gravesend and Tilbury to London are scheduled for 23 and 26 October.

Thames River Boats The COCKNEY SPARROW runs from Westminster to Kew at weekends this month, continuing to Richmond and Hampton Court on 16 and 17 October.

Sunbury Ferry will continue to run at weekends this month.

French Brothers 2-hour cruises from Windsor run at weekends until 31 October and 40-minute cruises are daily until 23 December.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink On 16 and 17 October the Fishbourne ferries will be diverted to Portsmouth International Port and will not carry foot passengers. The WIGHT LIGHT arrived in Falmouth on 29 September for refit.

Red Funnel Ferries The winter timetable, from 2 November to 31 March, has the usual two-ship service to East Cowes. The Red Jet service was increased on 21 August with two vessels running at commuter times on Mondays to Fridays and all day on Saturdays.

Solent Cruises The SOLENT CAT made her last trips of the season from Poole on 26 September and returned to Cowes two days later.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge, broken down since 26 August, will not return to service before mid November. One of Solent Cruises' "Jenny" boats maintains a passenger service.

City Cruises, Poole The RIVER ESCAPES FORTUNA arrived on 17 September and will run with her near-sister SOLENT SCENE. The ISLAND SCENE was at Southampton during the annual Boat Show, on 10-19 September, offering 20-minute cruises for visitors to the show, while the HARBOUR SCENE or SOLENT CAT did the harbour cruises at Poole.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER is off service from 12 September to 24 October, and went to Falmouth on the 13th.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The SARK BELLE has been sold and left Guernsey on 29 September for Southampton where she is being refitted for new owners, reportedly in Scotland. Originally the BOURNEMOUTH BELLE, she has been in Guernsey for 10 years. Trident Charter Co, Guernsey, will not run to Herm this winter, while Herm Island's ISLE OF HERM will provide the only service to the island after 31 October.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Exeter Cruises resumed on 17 July and ran until late September. Western Lady Ferry Service The WESTERN LADY VII has been sold, and the service was maintained this summer by the DART VENTURER and DITTISHAM PRINCESS. The season ended on 29 September. Plymouth Boat Trips The SPIRIT OF PLYMOUTH has been advertised for sale for £450 000.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

J Barbeary, Ilfracombe The business was sold in 2019 to brothers Paul and Mark Hutchings who continue to run the ILFRACOMBE PRINCESS. The contact telephone is now 07837 569667. Bristol Ferry Boats The EMILY is to be sold and has been advertised for £67 000. Avon Cruising, Bath The PULTENEY PRINCESS has not operated since 2019 and seems unlikely to run again.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II returned to service on 27 August, with trips at 1200 and 1330 daily except Sundays and Mondays. Newark Castle Line The SONNING has been open as a static bar some evenings after her afternoon cruises on the Trent.

#### NORTH WEST

J Cleasby, Barrow, has retired after running the ferry to Piel Island for 35 years. The new owner is Paul Wilcock who also offers cruises to view seals in his 12-passenger boat. The contact telephone is unchanged. Coniston Launch Trips are daily until 3 November and from 5 February, with winter trips at weekends and certain other days. Windermere Lake Cruises The timetable from 1 November to 23 December has the SWIFT sailing daily from Bowness, Brockhole and Ambleside, and launch sailings the length of the lake from Lakeside. Ullswater 'Steamers' The winter timetable from Glenridding to Howtown and Pooley Bridge runs from 31 October to 27 March. A second boat runs from Glenridding to Aira Force until 28 November and from 12 to 27 February.

# TRIP OUT

**November 2021**

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## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Sprotbrough Riverboat The WYRE LADY has returned to service and her first public trips are on 28 November.

## THAMES

Thames Cruises Three boats have been advertised for sale: the OLD LONDON (£220 000), ROYAL PRINCESS (£325 000) and VISCOUNTESS (£250 000).

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice Trips will run daily through the winter

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink Winter timetables have an hourly service to Fishbourne. On the Lymington route, two ships offer an hourly service on Monday to Friday mornings but sailings are otherwise every two hours. The WIGHT LIGHT returned from Falmouth to Lymington on 17 October. The ST FAITH went to Southampton on 1 November.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED JET 7 broke down on 19 October and had to be towed to Southampton. The RED JET 6 had a fault on the 21st and the Red Jet service was suspended for the rest of the day.

There was a small fire in the galley of the RED OSPREY on 21 October; no passengers were hurt, she returned to Southampton and was back in service the next day. The Southampton car ferry terminal is undergoing maintenance on 2-4 and 23-25 November and the car ferries will use berth 25 in the docks; there will be a bus for foot passengers or they can use the Red Jet at no extra cost. The RED FALCON went to Falmouth on 4 November for refit.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth The DORSET BELLE carried over 44 000 passengers on her trips this season.

City Cruises, Poole Harbour cruises will run through the winter daily except Mondays and Fridays. The boats will have a new blue livery, like City Cruises' fleet in London, after being painted red since 2015.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER left Falmouth on 23 October and returned to service from Portsmouth. The CONDOR VOYAGER currently sails from Poole on Fridays, runs from St-Malo at weekends and returns to Poole on Mondays. From 18 December both fast ferries run, then from 8 January the CONDOR LIBERATION runs alone and will use Cherbourg as the French port instead of St-Malo. Herm Island has bought the BRECOU LASS, previously used to serve the private island of Brecqhou. She will be renamed HERM LASS and run with the ISLE OF HERM.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Next year's Exeter Ship Canal cruises are on 10 and 24 May, 8 and 21 June, 8 and 22 July, and 5 and 19 September.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The company's turnover in 2020 was £2.46 million, down from £5.6 million in 2019, and there was a loss of £810 000. The boats carried 98 213 passengers, compared with 251 367 in 2019.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The Isles of Scilly Council has secured £48.4 million of government funding for replacement ships, to be delivered in 2024, and improvements to the harbours at St Mary's and Tresco. In 2022 the SCILLONIAN III is due to run from 21 March to 6 November.

#### WEST WALES

Dale Sailing Company, Marloes The DALE QUEEN, a 14-m 88-passenger catamaran, was launched by Blyth Catamarans of Canvey Island on 19 October.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

B&MK Waterway Enterprises, Bedford, has introduced a 12-passenger electric boat, the ELECTRA, on the Grand Union Canal at Milton Keynes. The JOHN BUNYAN continues to run on the Ouse at Bedford. Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust has taken delivery of a 12-passenger electric narrow boat named OUTRAM after the canal engineer Benjamin Outram. She offered trips on the Trent & Mersey Canal from Shardlow on 11 and 12 September then on 14 October was transported to Derby and lowered into the river Derwent where regular trips will start next year.

#### NORTH WEST

ChesterBoat 30-minute cruises will run daily until 18 December. Mersey Ferries The Seacombe terminal will remain closed until next year so services continue to run from Liverpool and Woodside only. Next year's Manchester Ship Canal cruises are on 14 dates from 5 May to 30 September, cruising from the Mersey to Latchford and back.

# TRIP OUT

**December 2021**

Best wishes to all readers for a happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions Winter work on the WAVERLEY is expected to cost £450 000 and an appeal has been launched to raise £150 000 towards this cost.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE sailed to Hull on 15 November for dry docking.

City Cruises, York After a Christmas break, daily sightseeing cruises resume on 1 January. The boats' hulls are being repainted blue after being red for many years.

## EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich Next year's sightseeing trips run from 16 April to 28 October on most Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays to off Harwich and on Sundays as far as Pin Mill. As usual there is a summer solstice sunrise cruise on 21 June at 0345.

Topsail Charters, Maldon Public cruises in the sailing barges are available on various dates next year from Maldon, Ipswich, Harwich, Brightlingsea and London.

## THAMES

French Brothers 40-minute cruises are running only at weekends this winter, not daily as reported in the October newsheet.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST FAITH was at Falmouth from 15 to 29 November.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON left Falmouth on 24 November.

Blue Funnel Cruises Next year's public trips include cruises to the Beaulieu River on 25 May, 24 June, 12 July, 24 August and 9 September.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge is now expected to return to service in mid-December.

The Solent Steam Packet Next year the SHIELDHALL has cruises from Southampton on 20 dates from 28 May to 18 September, including one to the Nab Tower on 2 July. She goes to Poole on 29 August, cruises to view the Bournemouth Air Show on 2-4 September and returns to Southampton on the 5th. Bookings are now being taken for these trips.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR LIBERATION went to Falmouth on 8 November and returned to Poole on 3 December. She will make a Portsmouth-Cherbourg-Poole trip for Brittany Ferries on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings on 27-29 May, 3-5 June and from 15 July to 4 September, in addition to Channel Island services.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The SARK BELLE has been renamed QUEENSFERRY BELLE during a refit at Southampton for her new owners Forth Boat Tours. She will run on the Firth of Forth with her near sister FORTH BELLE (ex POOLE BELLE).

WEST OF ENGLAND

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co The LADY MARY is making occasional trips between Kingsbridge and Salcombe in November and December when weather and tides are suitable.

Plymouth Boat Trips has bought the TAMAR BELLE and she arrived from Falmouth on 16 November. Originally the QUEEN OF HELFORD, she has run from Falmouth, Dartmouth and Plymouth over the years.

J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) are looking for a larger boat after selling the TAMAR BELLE.

Sam Pill (Cornish Pleasure Cruises), Falmouth, has bought the ENTERPRISE III from Fal River. She will be renamed before next season.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III went into the Penzance dry dock on 2 December.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG went to Sharpness on 9 November for her annual refit. Next year's passenger service is from 29 March to 28 October. The day return fare will be £48.

NORTH WEST

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Public trips next year are on 37 dates from 15 April to 9 October. There are trips between Liverpool and Ellesmere Port on 15 April, and 28 and 29 August, and to Garston on 16 April, as well as cruises on the Weaver from Ellesmere Port, Sutton Weaver, Acton Bridge and Anderton.

Windermere Lake Cruises Daily services by the SWIFT and smaller launches continue through the winter, except that from 10 January to 4 February there is no service to Lakeside.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE has sailings from Douglas to Belfast on 24 December and 1 January. The MANANNAN and Liverpool sailings resume on 1 April.