TRIP OUT

January 2022

Waverley Excursions Last year the WAVERLEY ran on 71 days and recorded 52 409 passenger journeys. Timetables for next season will be released "in early spring".

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses The GLAD TIDINGS II has been sold to Skye Marine and will run wildlife cruises from Edinbane. She was taken by road to the Isle of Skye on 21 December.

THAMES

At least 15 boats were out on the river in London to celebrate New Year's Eve, and many of them were off Greenwich at midnight for the firework display.

Jetstream Tours, Chatham The URIAH HEEP is being renamed THAMES KESTREL and will be used for the Tilbury ferry.

Woolwich Ferry has been suspended since early December for "ongoing emergency engineering work".

Thames Clippers are to buy Gravesend's Town Pier from Gravesham Borough Council. The pier is used by Jetstream Tours' Tilbury ferry and by the WAVERLEY on her visits to the Thames.

Woods' Silver Fleet "Terrible Thames" cruises with a "horrible histories" show resume on 2 April and run until 1 January 2023 with daily trips in the peak season and school holidays, and otherwise at weekends.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Public trips will be at weekends from April to October and daily in school holidays, apart from the Reading Festival 22-30 August. Trips to Goring with a cruise towards Moulsford are on nine dates, starting on 12 May. Afternoon cream tea cruises to Shiplake or Pangbourne are on ten dates.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED OSPREY left for refit in Falmouth on 4 January.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge resumed on 20 December after a break of nearly four months.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The BRAMBLE BUSH BAY will go to Falmouth for its next overhaul in November and will have "major mechanical improvements".

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR VOYAGER returns to service from St-Malo on 18 February after her refit; until then the CONDOR LIBERATION offers a limited service to the islands from Poole and Cherbourg.

WEST OF ENGLAND

S & M Garrett, Topsham, continue to run the 12-passenger REGNUM and the SEA DREAM II seems unlikely to return to service. Bird watching trips are being offered this winter.

Greenway Ferry Trips from Dartmouth to Greenway resume on 2 March.

T J Tucker, Salcombe The service to South Sands resumes on 2 April.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III came out of dry dock on 5 January. Her season is from 21 March to 6 November with sailings daily (except Sundays) from 28 March to 8 October, and otherwise on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday sailings are from 3 July to 18 September. There is a double trip on 2 and 28 May, 4 June, 30 July, and 6, 20 and 27 August.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Ilfracombe Princess The first trips of the season will be on 15 April.

Bristol Packet Avon Gorge cruises in the BAGHEERA or TOWER BELLE are on 52 dates from 12 March to 18 December.

NORTH WEST

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The GONDOLA will run from 2 April to 31 October.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co There was a keel-laying ceremony for the new MANXMAN at Ulsan in South Korea on 24 December.

MISCELLANY

The QUEENSFERRY BELLE (ex SARK BELLE, BOURNEMOUTH BELLE) left Southampton on 14 December for delivery to Forth Boat Tours. She sailed via Brighton, Ramsgate, Lowestoft and Grimsby to reach Whitby on 18 December, but was then trapped upstream of the town's swing bridge when it broke and could not be opened.

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 © G P Hamer 6 January 2022

TRIP OUT

February 2022

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE is being chartered by the RSPB for seabird cruises on 26 dates from 6 May to 3 September; telephone (01262) 422211.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours, Wroxham Trips will run daily from 12 to 20 February then from 1 April to 31 October.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham The JACOB MARLEY will offer cruises to the wreck of the RICHARD MONTGOMERY from Queenborough on 12, 13, 19, 20 and 26 February.

Woolwich Ferry The service resumed in January but until 28 March there will be no service on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays owing to strike action.

Thames Clippers Further day trips from Gravesend and Tilbury to London are scheduled for 17 and 19 February. Two more catamarans have been ordered from Wight Shipyard for delivery in autumn 2022 and spring 2023. They will be hybrid, running off batteries in central London. The contract to provide a temporary ferry service at Hammersmith is to be terminated as the bridge has been open to pedestrians since 17 July.

French Brothers Short trips from Windsor run daily from 19 February to 30 October. Runnymede-Windsor runs from 9 April to 25 September and Maidenhead-Windsor from 21 May to 25 September. Runnymede to Hampton Court is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 14 June to 1 September (except 28 and 30 June). Steamboat trips from Windsor are on most Tuesdays and Saturdays from 24 May to 30 August and on some Sundays.

SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry will not be running any cruises this year.

Wightlink The ST CLARE was at Falmouth from 17 January to 3 February.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED OSPREY left Falmouth on 16 January. The summer car ferry timetable runs from 1 April to 31 October.

City Cruises, Poole The SOLENT SCENE was at Gosport from 5 to 27 January and now has a blue hull like the rest of the fleet. The RIVER ESCAPES FORTUNA is to be renamed POOLE SCENE. Trips to Swanage are daily from 1 April. Evening cruises to the Dancing Ledge to view nesting puffins are on Fridays from 13 May to 1 July.

Dorset Cruises, Poole, will be offering evening party cruises on Fridays and Saturdays from April to August using City Cruises' POOLE SCENE. The DORSET QUEEN has a variety of public cruises including trips to Wareham.

National Trust Brownsea Island will be open to the public from 19 March to 30 October.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR VOYAGER went to Falmouth on 10 January. The COMMODORE CLIPPER was unable to carry passengers on 2 February because some crew members had covid; the CONDOR LIBERATION did an extra trip the next day. The government of Guernsey plans to buy a ferry to be leased to Condor.

Manche Iles Express Services are to resume in April after a break of two years (apart from a few trips in July 2020).

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth The first Jurassic Coast cruise of the season is on 25 April and the first to Sidmouth is on 11 May. Day trips to Torquay and Brixham are on Thursdays from 26 May to 29 September. Special trips include Brixham for the pirate festival on 30 April and 2 May, and geology day cruises on 20 May and 13 September.

Funfish Trips, Brixham Trips from Brixham, Paignton and Torquay to Teignmouth, returning by train, are on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2 April to 29 October.

Sam Pill (Cornish Pleasure Cruises), Falmouth The ENTERPRISE III is being renamed DIXIE BELLE and will begin running daily trips to the Helford River in April.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III came out of dry dock on 5 January. The ship's new master is Victoria Bolitho, the first woman in the post, replacing Pete Crawford who has retired.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG returned to Bideford on 3 February after her refit at Sharpness.

Bristol Packet 45-minute harbour cruises are running at weekends and will be daily in school holidays.

Bristol Ferry Boats will offer 1-hour harbour cruises during the school half-term holiday in February.

NORTH WEST

ChesterBoat Daily 30-minute cruises run from 19 February.

Mersey Ferries The service was suspended from 3 to 20 January owing to mechanical problems in the ROYAL IRIS OF THE MERSEY; the SNOWDROP was off service for a refit. 3-hour cruises into Liverpool Bay are scheduled for 11, 12 and 25 June, and 10 July.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society The DANIEL ADAMSON will be in the Albert Dock, Liverpool, from 4 to 14 April, available for charter, and with guided tours available on the 9th and 10th.

Keswick Launch Co Trips run from 12 to 27 February, on 5-6 March then daily from 12 March to 6 November.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The summer timetable, from 28 March to 29 October, follows the usual pattern.

MISCELLANY

The QUEENSFERRY BELLE (ex SARK BELLE, BOURNEMOUTH BELLE) left Whitby on 11 January after spending 23 days there and sailed via Amble to Arbroath where she is being refitted for Forth Boat Tours.

The former Gosport Ferry PORTSMOUTH QUEEN is now on her way to Guernsey where she is to become a static restaurant. She left Gosport in February 2016 and conversion to a party boat named LONDON QUEEN was started, but she has since been laid-up in Queenborough.

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TRIP OUT

March 2022

Waverley Excursions A timetable has been published for Clyde sailings from 16 June to 28 August.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses Trips to land on Holy Island are on various dates between 1 May and 28 October.

EAST ANGLIA

Sailing Barge Victor, Ipswich Afternoon cream tea cruises and evening supper cruises are on various dates from 20 May to 30 September.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham The summer programme, from 9 April, includes trips from Chatham to Southend, Southend to Queenborough, cruises to the Red Sand Towers, to the wreck of the RICHARD MONTGOMERY, or round the Isle of Sheppey.

'Lady Daphne' After a major refit in Oare Creek near Faversham, the sailing barge will move to a new home at Charlestown in Cornwall. She has belonged to her present owners since 2016 and offered cruises on the Thames until the autumn of 2019.

Thames River Sightseeing The current hourly service from Westminster, Embankment, Festival, Bankside, Tower Bridge Quay and Greenwich continues to 31 March, then there will be sailings every 40 minutes. No cruises to the Thames Barrier are scheduled.

Thames Clippers Further trips from Gravesend and Tilbury to London were scheduled for 5 and 19 March.

Bateaux London The HARMONY arrived in Lowestoft for refit on 1 March.

London Party Boats The ARCADIAN KING EDWARD, bought from King Cruises last year, is being renamed EMERALD OF LONDON.

Thames Boats The HIGH SOCIETY has not returned to service since sinking at her mooring in May 2018. She is now for sale at Gillingham on the Medway.

Hobbs of Henley The CONSUTA II has been advertised for sale by brokers for £98 750.

Salter's Steamers An Oxford-Abingdon service will run from 25 July to 1 September on Mondays to Thursdays. There will also be short cruises from Oxford and Marlow, and on 4 and 5 September from Wallingford for the Bunkfest event.

SOUTH COAST

City Cruises, Poole The Swanage service runs from 1 April to 31 October and there will be an increased service with six round trips daily instead of three, using two ships.

National Trust Visits to Brownsea Island this year must again be booked with the Trust. There will be seven sailings a day from Poole and none from Sandbanks, in boats of Brownsea Island Ferries. The adult price of £21.50 includes the boat trip.

Coastline Cruises, Weymouth The business, with two boats, has been advertised for sale for £125 000.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries After her refit in Falmouth, the CONDOR VOYAGER sailed to St-Malo on 8 February and is now back in service.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth There will be a day trip to Dartmouth on 27 August for the annual regatta.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The ferry will run from 7 to 24 April then from mid-May to 31 October.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Totnes sailings run from 2 April to 27 October and in July and August are daily except Fridays, and otherwise two to five days a week, with two round trips each day.

Plymouth Boat Trips Trips to Calstock are on 26 dates from 27 April, most also calling at Cotehele. River Yealm cruises are on 23 dates from 10 April. Breakwater cuises and sunset cruises are also in the programme but the River Lynher cruises are not advertised this year.

J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) The PRINCESSA will begin her season on 20 March.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boats The service has resumed after a break of two years, and links Temple Meads, City Centre, ss GREAT BRITAIN and Cottage Inn.

Matthew of Bristol Public trips begin with an Avon Gorge cruise on 9 April.

Avon River Cruises, Bristol Both boats are for sale: the SILVER SALMON with her business for £135 000, and the SPIRIT OF FREEDOM for £80 000.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Trent River Cruises, Nottingham A liquidator was appointed on 31 January.

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips Cruises into the Wash are scheduled for 16 dates from 12 April.

NORTH WEST

ChesterBoat 2-hour cruises to Aldford Iron Bridge are on selected dates from 9 March.

National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, will offer trips at Easter using a 12-passenger boat from Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANANNAN went to Falmouth for refit, arriving on 26 February.

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TRIP OUT

April 2022

Waverley Excursions Clyde sailings are due to begin in late-May. The WAVERLEY visits the Western Isles between 6 and 13 June, with sailings from Oban and Kyle of Lochalsh. After the Clyde season, she may visit Liverpool, the Bristol Channel, South Coast and Thames, but confirmation is awaited.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE returned to Bridlington on 7 March after dry docking in Hull and cruises are expected to commence on 9 April.

Yorkshire Hire Cruisers, Leeds, ceased trading in 2020. The KIRKSTALL FLYBOAT has been advertised for sale with the HORBURY, used as an office and store, for £135 000.

EAST ANGLIA

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services was the buyer of the HAVEN CRUISER from Great Yarmouth. She now has hybrid propulsion, with an electric motor, and has a shelter and toilet. She will be used for seal-watching cruises with the GLORIA.

THAMES

Thames River Sightseeing Sailings continue to be hourly and the increased service at 40-minute intervals is postponed to 11 April.

Bateaux London The HARMONY returned to London on 18 March after her refit in Lowestoft.

Thames River Boats Sailings from Richmond to Hampton Court began on 2 April and services from Westminster start on 15 April.

SOUTH COAST

Bodiam Boating Station The DANNIE LEE is returning to service after a break of two years but will be limited to 12 passengers and will only be available for private hire.

Wightlink Summer timetables have a three-ship service to Fishbourne with sailings every 40 minutes, and an hourly two-ship service to Yarmouth.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED EAGLE was at Falmouth from 11 to 25 February.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge is suspended from 7 March to 22 April for its 5-year survey. It left under tow for Falmouth on 17 April.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth, plan to begin the season this month. 2-hour evening cruises from Poole will run on Fridays from 15 April.

City Cruises, Poole The SOLENT SCENE began Swanage sailings on 1 April and the full two-ship service is due to start on 13 April. The RIVER ESCAPES FORTUNA began running on 2 April doing cruises to Old Harry; she will be renamed POOLE SCENE in the autumn.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER's refit, planned for September, was brought forward and she was dry-docked between 21 March and 3 April in Falmouth. The CONDOR VOYAGER was at Falmouth from 15 to 29 March. Since 1 April the CONDOR LIBERATION is making a twice-weekly round trip from Guernsey to Cherbourg with a crossing time of two and a half hours.

Manche Iles Express The season is from 28 April to 25 September, with both vessels in use from 4 June to 31 August. There are Alderney sailings on seven dates.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth The PRIDE OF EXMOUTH went to Polruan on 24 March for her refit.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The ORCOMBE is now expected to run the ferry from 9 to 23 April and will then be replaced by the PRINCESS MARINA for a while. The PRINCESS MARINA is expected to resume trips from Dawlish this summer after a break of two years.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co will start on 11 April.

Mevagissey Ferries will run from 26 April to 3 October.

Fal River Sailings from Falmouth to Trelissick run from 1 April to 30 October, with four trips daily. On 12 dates there is a high tide trip to Truro, with the first on 16 April.

Truro River Cruises will not be running this year "due to unforeseen circumstances".

Tresco Boat Services The VOYAGER OF ST MARTIN'S, sold in 2019, has been rebuilt in Ireland and began running between New Ross and Waterford in March as the BARROW PRINCESS.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG has a Bideford-Ilfracombe coastal trip on 22 April.

Bristol Ferry Boats There are more trips to Beese's Riverside Bar this season, on some Thursdays and weekends.

Cardiff Cruises The LEWIS ALEXANDER began trips to Flat Holm in March. She was built to serve the island in 1989 but had not been there since 2013. Sailing times vary with tides and allow three hours on the island.

WEST WALES

Carmarthen Bay Ferries After a break of two years, trips are due to resume on 15 April.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Bosworth Cruises, Birmingham The BOSWORTH LADY is now run by Brindley Cruises. Telephone mobile 07853 226516.

Princess River Cruises, Nottingham The NOTTINGHAM PRINCE is being offered for sale for £65 000.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANANNAN returned to service on 1 April. The hull of the new MANXMAN is now afloat in Korea.

MISCELLANY

The former Gosport ferry PORTSMOUTH QUEEN arrived in St Peter Port on 16 March from Ramsgate after spending ten days in Gosport. She is to be converted to a static floating restaurant.

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TRIP OUT

May 2022

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was in dry dock at Greenock from 19 to 29 April. Details of sailings after 28 August, and a possible visit to England and Wales, are still awaited.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Whitby Coastal Cruises The ESK BELLE III has been rebuilt with a central wheelhouse. Originally the QUEEN OF CORNWALL at Padstow, she later ran from Ilfracombe then Tenby, and has been at Whitby since 2012.

THAMES

'Lady Daphne' The sailing barge arrived in her new base at Charlestown in Cornwall on 18 April.

Thames River Sightseeing From 30 May to 5 September, sailings will be half-hourly, requiring five boats. There will be no cruises to the Thames Barrier. Cruises from Westminster to the Barrier began in 1981 and ran every year until the pandemic.

Thames Clippers began serving Barking Riverside on 22 April. The new pier on the north bank is the easternmost on the Clippers' regular service.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA will offer 50-minute public trips from Bourne End during the Bank Holiday weekends of 2-5 June and 27-29 August.

SOUTH COAST

Chichester Harbour Water Tours Trips are now in a 12-passenger boat and not the WINGATE III.

Solent Party Ship Cruises, Southampton The PRINCESS CAROLINE will be delivered in September to new Finnish owners, Rosita Risteilyt of Turku who already own the former BON MARIN DE SERK from the Isle of Sark Shipping Co. The PRINCESS CAROLINE has been based at Southampton since 2004.

Isle of Wight Council The floating bridge was towed back to Cowes on 4 April and returned to service on 23 April.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth Trips from Bournemouth began on 25 April. Swanage Pier Trust has refused permission for the DORSET BELLE to call because the volunteer pier staff are busy with the additional sailings of City Cruises.

City Cruises, Poole The first calls at Swanage were on 9 April when the pier reopened after repairs. The PURBECK PRIDE is being chartered from Greenslade for the season in addition to the SOLENT CAT which arrived on 28 April to begin her third season on charter from Solent Cruises to City Cruises.

Coastline Cruises, Weymouth The Portland service resumed on 15 April.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Manche Iles Express The VICTOR HUGO made the first trip of the season on 28 April, from Carteret to Jersey.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross The ferry is suspended from 25 April to 17 May.

Western Lady Ferry Service The season began on 2 April. Boats sail from the Haldon Pier in Torquay.
Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Day trips from Torquay and Brixham to Dartmouth started on 16 April. The DART VENTURER and DITTISHAM PRINCESS are based at Torquay and also provide the Western Lady service.
Drake's Island, Plymouth Access to the island for guided tours is this year from the Barbican in vessels of Plymouth Boat Trips. The tours are on Fridays Saturdays and Sundays.
Fal River A 2½-hour "Creekside archaeology cruise" from Falmouth is scheduled for 19 May.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS
National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II began her season on 20 April. 45-minute trips run from Tuesdays to Saturdays.
Newark Castle Line The SONNING's season started on 15 April.
Boston Belle River & Sea Trips The start of the season was delayed, and the PRINCE GEORGE began river trips on 17 April.

NORTH WEST
Ullswater 'Steamers' The RAVEN was back in the water on 3 May after a major refit including renewal of the upper deck and saloon interior.

IRISH SEA
Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE went to Birkenhead for refit on 25 April and is due to return to service on 10 May. She will offer a 4-hour cruise round the island on 18 June at a fare of £35 including a meal.

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 © G P Hamer 5 May 2022

TRIP OUT

June 2022

As we hope the pandemic is over, there are many boat trips on offer but some operators have not survived and the business faces many problems: rising costs, a shortage of crew and more stringent MCA rules. For older boats that no longer carry passengers, the usual fate is as a houseboat.

There are few new vessels to replace the old ones, but Blyth Catamarans have become prolific builders of passenger boats, delivering three in the past year: the ISLE OF HERM for Guernsey, the DALE QUEEN for Pembrokeshire and the latest, the SERENITY IV.

I hope that a new printed edition of the guide to passenger boat services will be ready later this month, while the information will also be online.

Geoffrey Hamer, PO Box 485, Southall, UB1 9BH

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY began her season as scheduled on 28 May, sailing from Glasgow to Tighnabruaich. After completing her Clyde sailings, she went to Oban on 6 June.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Berwick Boat Trips The longest trip offered by the BORDER BELLE is an occasional 3½-hour cruise along the Scottish coast to St Abbs Head. The GIRL KATHERINE II, bought from Arbroath in 2020, is limited to 12 passengers.

A & T Douglas, Seahouses The SERENITY IV has been built by Blyth Catamarans in Essex. She is a 15-m catamaran able to carry 120 passengers, with a shelter on the main deck and an upper passenger deck. Now the largest passenger boat in Seahouses, her maiden passenger trips were on 30 May. (photograph from owners)

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE visited Hull to lead a jubilee flotilla on the Humber on 2 June.

EAST ANGLIA

'Viking Saga', Maldon, is now expected to begin her season later this month.

THAMES

Woolwich Ferry From 6 June, the ferry will run only on Mondays to Fridays between 0700 and 1800 because of a shortage of crew.

Viscount Cruises will not be running Sunday evening cruises from Greenwich this year.

Thames River Boats This season the CONNAUGHT usually runs from Westminster to Hampton Court, the COCKNEY SPARROW from Westminster to Kew, and the PRINCESS FREDA between Richmond and Hampton Court.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading, will be running the ALEXANDRA from JGF Passenger Boats of Walton. She joins her much-rebuilt sister CAVERSHAM LADY. As usual, Colliers Launches' PRINCESS FREDA will be coming from London in August to run ferry services during the Reading Festival.

SOUTH COAST

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL made her first cruise of the season on 28 May. She left for dry docking at Falmouth on 6 June and is expected to stay two weeks, returning to Southampton in time for her next cruise on 25 June.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Manche Iles Express The GRANVILLE entered service from Diélette on 12 May and runs from Carteret and Diélette, while the VICTOR HUGO is based at Granville.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross The ferry finally began on 25 May following delays completing paperwork. There are unlikely to be any trips from Dawlish this year because of work on the sea wall.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE will remain out of service this year for her major refit and will return to service in 2023. The single fare for the Kingswear ferry was increased to £2 on 1 May.

Helford River Boats has a new owner this year, Phil Brewer.

St Anthony Holidays The ferry across Gillan Creek has ceased.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III's sailing on 24 May was cancelled for "essential" engine repairs.

NORTH WEST

The Mill Hotel & Restaurant, Chester, no longer offers restaurant cruises and the L'EAU-T-CUISINE has been offered for sale by brokers for £120 000.

Cumbria County Council plans to replace the current Windermere ferry with a new electric vessel which could enter service in 2024.

Windermere Lake Cruises The managing director, Nigel Wilkinson, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

MISCELLANY

The former PORTSMOUTH QUEEN has returned to Kent after plans to use her as a static restaurant in Guernsey seem to have encountered problems. She was towed by the tug GPS BATTLER, arriving in Queenborough on 1 June.

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www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 June 2022

TRIP OUT

July 2022

The new edition of the 'Trip Out' guide to the passenger boat services of the British Isles is still with the printers but copies should be available soon. All the information is now also on the website www.trip-out.co.uk .

As expected, the new guide is slightly thinner and there are fewer boats than in previous editions, thanks to changing public tastes, the pandemic and other factors. Around the coasts wildlife is what now attracts passengers and thankfully there seems to be no shortage of seals, dolphins, puffins and other seabirds.

Geoffrey Hamer, PO Box 485, Southall, UB1 9BH

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY will not go to Liverpool, Llandudno or the Bristol Channel this year. She is due to sail on the south coast from 2 to 21 September then on the Thames until 9 October, but timetables are still awaited. Sailings have been cancelled from 6 to 9 July for repairs to the port paddle box.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

The National Trust has closed the Farne Islands to visitors from 3 July to protect the seabirds from avian flu. Boats can still offer cruises round the islands and George Shiel's GOLDEN GATE can still land on Longstone Island which has no nesting birds.

THAMES

Thames Boats is in liquidation. The HIGH SOCIETY has been sold and will be a houseboat. The WYNDHAM GRAND/"THE WYNDHAM", laid up at Gillingham on the Medway, was offered for sale by auction in June with bidding closing at £99 000.

Turk Launches as usual are running a ferry service between Hampton Court Station and the Flower Festival between 4 and 9 July, and City Cruises' PRINCESS ROSE has been chartered as well as boats from JGF Passenger Boats.

Parr Boats, Kingston, are running a ferry service between Molesey Lock and the Flower Festival.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading The PRINCESS MARINA has been made a "flagship" of 2022 by National Historic Ships UK. Originally at Great Yarmouth, she later ran from Bridlington, Whitby, Westminster, Kingston and since 1989 at Reading.

SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry A 1-hour harbour cruise is offered on Thursdays from 21 July to 11 August at 1130.

Red Funnel Ferries Members of the Unite trade union have voted to strike in a pay dispute with Red Funnel. No dates have been announced.

Blue Funnel Cruises The OCEAN SCENE is advertised to do 20-minute cruises from the Southampton Boat Show between 16 and 25 September.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL returned to Southampton on 26 June after dry docking in Falmouth.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Jersey Bus & Boat Tours The JERSEY DUCHESS continues to offer cruises from St Helier but is no longer run by the bus tour company. The new contact number is (01534) 285959.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Exeter Cruises Trips on the canal to Double Locks resumed on 2 July.

WEST WALES

SeaMôr, New Quay The CERISMAR TWO is back at New Quay for a second season after spending the winter in Beaumaris.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Worcester Boat Trips THE EARL has not returned to service since sinking in October 2019 and is not running this year but the owner hopes to repair her to resume trips in Worcester in future.

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 © G P Hamer 6 July 2022

TRIP OUT

August 2022

The new edition of the guide to the passenger boat services of the British Isles, 'Trip Out 2022', is now available. All the lists are now online on www.trip-out.co.uk and are updated regularly.

Geoffrey Hamer, PO Box 485, Southall, UB1 9BH

Waverley Excursions Tickets are now on sale for South Coast sailings from 2 to 21 September. There are three sailings from Poole but there is no berth available at Weymouth. Timetables for Thames sailings from 23 September to 9 October are still awaited. Her sailings on 17 and 18 July were cancelled because of an electrical fault.

EAST ANGLIA

'Viking Saga', Maldon, resumed 40-minute trips in July after two inactive seasons. There are 1½-hour cruises to Osea Island on 4, 5, 13, 20 and 27 August.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham Most of this month's trips between Kent and Southend are "sold out" with bookings limited to 65, the number of seats in the JACOB MARLEY's saloon. Additional tickets will be available at short notice if fine weather is forecast.

Lee Valley Boat Centre, Broxbourne, no longer run the PRIDE OF LEE but the LADY OF LEE VALLEY still does lunch, tea and dinner cruises.

Thames River Sightseeing The current half-hourly service runs until 4 September, then sailings will be every 40 minutes until 30 October. The CHAY BLYTH, HOLLYWOOD, MERCEDES and SARAH KATHLEEN have not run this year.

London Party Boats were the buyers of the WYNDHAM GRAND/"THE WYNDHAM" from bankrupt Thames Boats. She will be refitted and renamed.

Thames Luxury Charters Chris Livett has retired from running passenger boats and sold the business in May. The new owners are linked to the OCEANDIVA which is due in London later this year.

French Brothers are suffering from a shortage of crew and the Maidenhead-Windsor and Runnymede-Hampton Court services for the rest of the season have been cancelled.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries Some sailings have been cancelled because of a shortage of crew and strike action. During August, there is an hourly car ferry service on only 15 days including weekends; a reduced two-ship service runs on other dates. Scheduled crossing time for the RED JETs has been increased to 28 minutes to save fuel and wear on the vessels' engines.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross The MY QUEEN is being scrapped after being out of use since 2015. Built in 1929 to run from Poole as the GONDOLIER QUEEN, she later ran in London and from Dartmouth and Plymouth before being bought by the Rackley family in about 2000. The PRINCESS MARINA began 2-hour river and coastal cruises on 20 July from Starcross.

Funfish Trips, Brixham, now run four trips a day between Brixham and Paignton, advertised with the PRIDE OF PAIGNTON which offers five trips daily between Paignton and Torquay. Trips to Teignmouth are temporarily suspended.
Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III's sailing on 31 July was cancelled for "an essential repair"..

WEST WALES
Dale Sailing Company, Marloes The LADY HELEN and DALE PRINCESS sailed from the Old Quay in Haverfordwest on 15 July for the traditional "beating of the bounds" ceremony.

NORTH WEST
Mersey Ferries The Seacombe terminal, closed for refurbishment since December 2020, is now expected to reopen in the autumn.

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www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 6 August 2022

TRIP OUT

September 2022

Waverley Excursions Timetables for Thames sailings between 23 September and 9 October were published on 9 August and the steamer is due to call at Tower Pier, Gravesend, Southend, Whitstable, Clacton, Harwich and Southwold. The sailing on 23 August was cancelled because of maintenance of a steam pump. She completed her Clyde programme on 28 August and left for the south coast the next day, arriving off the Isle of Wight on the 31st. South Coast sailings began as scheduled on 2 September but the next day a fault caused the cancellation of a cruise round the island. The weather curtailed the sailing on 6 September and caused the next day to be cancelled.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses The GLAD TIDINGS III has been advertised for sale for £12 345. She was built at Seahouses for the present owners in 1971.

Graceful Swan, Skipton The 54-seat electric restaurant boat GRACEFUL SWAN was built in 2019 for the Rendezvous Hotel and was ready to run on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal from the hotel in the spring of 2020, but seems to have had little use because of the pandemic and other problems. She is for sale for £474 950.

THAMES

Lee & Stort Boat Co has been unable to serve Hertford this year because of redevelopment. Occasional 3-hour cruises have been run from Ware, and Hertford trips are expected to resume next year.

Thames Cruises The ROYAL PRINCESS has been laid-up since 2020 and has been for sale since last year, initially for £325 000, but is now available for £100 000.

Salter's Steamers The launch IFFLEY has been scrapped after being out of use for several years.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink Timetables will be reduced this autumn for the refit programme and Lymington services were reduced from 30 August, with sailings every two hours on most afternoons and evenings.

Red Funnel Ferries Strikes have ended after workers in the Unite trade union accepted a deal with increased pay, and the ferries resumed a full daily timetable from 31 August. Because of "urgent maintenance" on the East Cowes terminal, late evening and overnight services were cancelled on 3-5 September.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL went to Poole on 29 August and completed her visit to Poole as scheduled, returning to Southampton on 5 September. Her last public trips of the season are on 17 and 18 September.

National Trust There has been no service from Sandbanks to Brownsea because of the condition of the jetty at Sandbanks, but the Trust will run trips in the BROWNSEA ENTERPRISE on certain dates from 5 September to 30 October. Tickets must be booked in advance.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The ferry is due to go to Falmouth for refit on 31 October and the service will be suspended until December.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's last Bideford-Ilfracombe cruise of the season was scheduled for 2 September.

NORTH WEST

Anderton Boat Lift The lift has been closed for repairs since July so for the rest of the season until 31 October the EDWIN CLARK will offer one-hour cruises on the river Weaver daily at 1130 and 1400.

Mersey Ferries The Seacombe terminal may reopen in mid-October.

Wyre Council To support the Fleetwood to Knott End ferry for the next four years, Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council are to provide an additional subsidy of over £80 000.

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www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 September 2022

TRIP OUT

October 2022

The past summer was warmer, drier and sunnier than average in most parts of the UK. The lack of rain led to some restrictions at locks on some canals, but the weather was kind to most boat operators.

Many operators were busy in the peak holiday season but crew shortages and high fuel costs were a problem. It wasn't a return to business as normal before the pandemic, and the coming months will bring more financial worries. It's very difficult to predict what the passenger boat business will be like in 2023.

Geoffrey Hamer, PO Box 485, Southall, UB1 9BH

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her south coast sailings on 21 September and arrived in Gravesend the next day but trips on 23 and 24 September were cancelled for repairs to the starboard wheel. The wheel was damaged off Southend on 1 October and the next day's sailing was cancelled. The sailing on 5 October was cancelled because of the weather.

EAST ANGLIA

Waveney River Tours, Oulton Broad Cruises continue through October at 1100 and 1400 daily except Mondays and Fridays.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham The THAMES KESTREL began running in September and made her first trips between Queenborough and Southend, supplementing the JACOB MARLEY. There have been no cruises since 12 September while the JACOB MARLEY is re-engined; she is expected to return to service this month.

Thames River Sightseeing The winter service, from 31 October until 31 March, will have hourly sailings from Westminster from 1100 to 1500 to Greenwich via Embankment, Festival, Bankside and Tower Bridge Quay.

Thames River Boats The last Hampton Court sailing is on 25 October and the last of the season from Westminster to Kew is on 29 October.

French Brothers Short trips from Windsor are daily until 30 October then at weekends through the winter.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The WIGHT SKY was at Falmouth from 9 to 30 September for refit.

Red Funnel Ferries The winter service, from 1 November to 31 March, has a two-ship service between Southampton and East Cowes.

Solent Party Ship Cruises, Southampton The PRINCESS CAROLINE was handed over to her new Finnish owners and left Southampton on 20 September under the Finnish flag. She went via the Kiel canal, Gedser and Kalmar to arrive in Rauma on the 27th. It seems that she will not be renamed.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL made her last trip of the year, a charter, on 24 september.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries Belfast-based Artemis Technologies is developing a 150-passenger electric hydrofoil and plans to run a trial service on Belfast Lough in 2024 in partnership with Condor which will operate the craft.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Winter bird-watching cruises are on 22 dates from 5 November to 6 March.

Western Lady Ferry Service Torquay-Brixham sailings will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in October.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co From November to March river cruises from Dartmouth are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and also on Saturdays in March.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co Next year the SCILLONIAN III will run from 20 March to 5 November.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA's season has finished early and trips for the next two weeks are cancelled for "operational reasons".

NORTH WEST

ChesterBoat Short trips are scheduled to run daily until 18 December.

Mersey Ferries The Seacombe terminal reopens on 17 October after being closed since December 2020 for a major upgrade. Woodside will then be closed for similar work.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society There will be an additional end-of-season sailing on 23 October, from Sutton Weaver to Liverpool.

Coniston Launch Sailings are daily until 27 November then at weekends until 4 February when a daily service resumes.

Windermere Lake Cruises The winter timetable runs from 31 October to 31 March, with daily sailings from Bowness, Brockhole, Ambleside and Lakeside, except that between 9 January and 3 February Lakeside is only served at weekends.

Keswick Launch Co runs daily until 11 November then at weekends until 27 November. Weekend services resume on 4 February, with daily sailings 11-26 February and from 11 March.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The winter service, from 30 October, has one boat making three trips daily.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The company has bought the cargo ferry ARROW, on charter since 2013, for €9 million (about £7.8 million).

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TRIP OUT

November 2022

Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Thames programme on 9 October and left that night via Portland, Warrenpoint and Campbeltown to reach Glasgow on the 12th. She completed her final sailings on 15 and 16 October from Glasgow. She sailed on 108 days and there were 101 646 passenger journeys, apparently the most since 2016. Four sailings were cancelled by the weather and ten for technical reasons.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

City Cruises, York Sightseeing trips are daily until 25 November then "festive" cruises run until 23 December.

EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich The ORWELL LADY's sightseeing trips in 2023 run from 5 April to 27 October and can now be booked. Special trips include as usual a summer solstice sunrise cruise at 0345 on 21 June.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham The re-engining of the JACOB MARLEY is taking longer than expected but she may be able to offer some trips this month.

Oceandiva Introduction of the OCEANDIVA is now expected in 2023.

City Cruises Winter services from Westminster, London Eye, Tower and Greenwich are every 40 minutes.

Thames River Sightseeing The winter service, originally advertised to be hourly, is every 40 minutes.

Terrible Thames Tour Trips were originally advertised to continue at weekends but the last trip of the season was on 30 October.

SOUTH COAST

Baker Trayte Marine, Portsmouth The Hayling ferry will not run at weekends in November and December because of a shortage of crew.

Gosport Ferry The SPIRIT OF PORTSMOUTH will be offering 2-hour cruises from Gosport to see the US aircraft carrier GERALD R FORD on 15 and 16 November.

Solent Cruises will be offering cruises from Portsmouth to the GERALD R FORD ON 14-17 November.

Wightlink The WIGHT LIGHT was at Falmouth from 6 to 27 October for refit.

Isle of Wight Council has reached a settlement with the designers and builders of the floating bridge and is considering building a replacement.

City Cruises, Poole The RIVER ESCAPES FORTUNA has gone to Portchester for refit.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The ferry's last day of service before her refit was 30 October.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The Finnish cargo ferry MIDAS was chartered while the COMMODORE GOODWILL was in Spain for a refit, making her first trial call at St Peter Port on 25 October.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Next year's Exeter Ship Canal cruises will be on 12 and 27 June, 10 and 11 July, 8 September, and 7 December.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co The season ended on 28 October but trips may run in November and December, advertised at short notice if weather and tides are suitable.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The GRY MARITHA was out of service from 16 to 30 October and the SCILLONIAN III made additional sailings for cargo. The sailing on 6 November was cancelled because of forecast sea conditions so the SCILLONIAN III's last trip of the season was on the 5th, and she was due to go into the Penzance dry dock on 9 November. She carried over 115 000 passengers during the season which is similar to numbers in years before the pandemic.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's sailings next year are from 28 March to 27 October on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from either Ilfracombe or Bideford.

Bristol Packet Harbour trips from the ss GREAT BRITAIN are at weekends in the winter.

Bristol Ferry Boats run only at weekends and in school holidays this winter.

NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries The ROYAL IRIS OF THE MERSEY made the first calls at the refurbished Seacombe landing stage on 17 October, and Woodside is now closed. The Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region has announced a plan to spend £24 million building a new ferry and upgrading one of the present vessels.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE was out of service for essential repairs in Birkenhead from 30 October to 7 November; the MANANNAN ran to Heysham while the ARROW did overnight cargo sailings. The BEN-MY-CHREE will run to Heysham through the winter, with trips to Belfast on 23 December and 1 January. Liverpool sailings in the MANANNAN resume on 31 March.

MISCELLANY

The restaurant ship HISPANIOLA was towed down river from London to shipbreakers at Erith on 31 October. She ran on the Clyde as the MAID OF ASHTON from 1953 to 1971 before becoming a static restaurant in London, finally closing in March 2020.

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TRIP OUT

December 2022

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

Geoffrey Hamer, PO Box 485, Southall, UB1 9BH

EAST ANGLIA

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services Seal-watching cruises continue in winter using the HARBOUR FERRY limited to 12 passengers.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham The JACOB MARLEY returned to service on 16 November with a charter but there have been no public trips.

Absolute Party Cruises have bought the SALIENT from Crown River Cruises. She will continue as a party boat in London.

Terrible Thames Tour will return for a third season, running from 1 April to 29 October.

Thames Party Boats are now running the HURLINGHAM as well as the VISCOUNT.

Hidden Depths Canal Cruises, King's Cross The narrow boat FREDA, built in 2016, has been offered for sale for £100 000 as the owners plan to retire.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Day trips to Goring with a cruise towards Moulsford are on ten Thursdays next summer. Afternoon cream tea cruises to Shiplake or Pangbourne are on some Tuesdays.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST FAITH was in Falmouth from 14 to 29 November for dry docking. Additional evening services between Portsmouth and Ryde will run on some December weekends using one of Solent Cruises' catamarans.

Red Funnel Ferries All three car ferries will be in use between 19 December and 2 January. On Christmas Day one ship will offer two return trips, the only sailings to the island on that day.

The Solent Steam Packet Public cruises are on 24 dates from 16 June to 17 September and include cruises to Portsmouth Harbour on 17 June and 13 August, to Poole on 28 August, a Jurassic Coast cruise from Poole on the 29th, cruises to view the Bournemouth Air Festival on 1-3 September and Poole to Southampton on 4 September.

City Cruises, Poole The RIVER ESCAPES FORTUNA returned to Poole on 29 November after her refit on Portsmouth Harbour. As part of Poole Christmas Maritime Light Festival, 30-minute evening cruises are offered daily until 2 January except 24-26 December.

National Trust Brownsea Island will be open from 11 March to 29 October with boats of Brownsea Island Ferries running from Poole; tickets are sold on the island and include the boat trip but do not need to be booked in advance. The BROWNSEA ENTERPRISE will run from Sandbanks and tickets need to be booked in advance.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The BRAMBLE BUSH BAY was towed to Falmouth by the tug VENTURE, arriving on 13 November. The ferry was damaged during the tow and is not expected to return to service until the New Year. The ferry company says "a letter has been issued to the tug company holding them fully responsible."

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER was out of service for repairs from 13 to 20 November and was dry docked in Belfast between 16 and 18 November.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Plymouth Boat Trips Harbour cruises run on Saturdays this month, then daily from 26 December to 1 January and from 1 April to 29 October 2+023. There is a service from the Barbican and Royal William Yard to Cremyll on 10 and 11 December for the Mount Edgcumbe Christmas Fayre.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III was in the Penzance dry dock from 9 to 25 November.

NORTH WEST

Wyre Council The Knott End ferry is running a restricted service because of "staff absence" and there is a service on only 17 days this month.

Windermere Lake Cruises The SWIFT has been off service for maintenance since early October so the TEAL has been used for charters and occasional winter sailings instead of the smaller launches.

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