# TRIP OUT

**January 2023**

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Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY's season is planned to start on 19 May and she will go to Oban and the inner Hebrides between 23 and 29 May, the Bristol Channel from 2 to 18 June then Liverpool and Llandudno on 20-21 June.  She is on the South Coast from 1 September and on the Thames from 22 September to 8 October.

EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours, Wroxham  There are trips on 11-19 February, 19 March then daily from 1 April to 31 October.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours, Chatham  There are cruises from Queenborough to the wreck of the RICHARD MONTGOMERY on some weekends from 14 January.  Other public trips, including Southend and the Red Sand Towers, resume on 1 April.

Thames River Sightseeing  There is a reduced three-boat service in January and February with hourly sailings.

Woods' Silver Fleet  The SILVER STURGEON arrived in Lowestoft for refit on 5 January.

SOUTH COAST

Ross Boat Trips, Brighton  The 85-passenger catamaran GLADIATOR has been delivered to Brighton and will begin running in March.

(Picture from Ross Boats)

Red Funnel Ferries  The RED EAGLE went to Falmouth on 9 December for refit and only two car ferries were in service over the Christmas period.

Blue Funnel Cruises announced on 21 December that the Hythe ferry was losing money and would have to close on the 31st, but later said that it will continue while there are discussions with a potential new operator.  The OCEAN SCENE's summer programme includes cruises to the Beaulieu River on 22 May, 21 June, 13 July and 16 August.

City Cruises, Poole  Coastal cruises resume on 1 April and, as well as the usual trips to Swanage, there are 1½-hour cruises to Old Harry's Rock.  Cruises to the Dancing Ledge to see nesting puffins are on Friday evenings from 12 May to 30 June.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co  The ferry is now expected to resume in February after repairs in Falmouth.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries  The CONDOR LIBERATION was dry docked in Falmouth between 9 November and 12 December.

Manche Iles Express  Granville sailings run from 22 April to 17 September; Carteret and Diélette are served from 1 May to 24 September.  Alderney is served on seven dates.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG went to Sharpness on 14 November for her refit.

NORTH WEST

ChesterBoat 30-minute trips are due to run daily from 7 January.

National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port Daily trips will run between 18 and 26 February in a 12-passenger boat of Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Public cruises are on 31 dates from 26 March to 8 October, with trips from Sutton Weaver, Acton Bridge and Anderton on the river Weaver, Ellesmere Port and Liverpool. There is a sailings on the Manchester Ship Canal to and from Mode Wheel Lock in Salford on 26-27 August.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The one-boat winter service continues to 25 March. A three-boat schedule runs from 26 March with a full four-boat service from 27 May to 4 September.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The new MANXMAN carried out her first sea trials off South Korea on 10 December. She is scheduled to replace the BEN-MY-CHREE on 23 May.

'Trip Out' is published monthly as an independent venture at PO Box 485, Southall, UB1 9BH; telephone (020) 8571 5014; e-mail geoffhamer@yahoo.com. A new edition of the guide to the passenger boat services of the British Isles, 'Trip Out 2022', costs £6.50 including postage and packing. The next newssheet will be prepared on 6 February.

www.trip-out.co.uk © G P Hamer 7 January 2023

# TRIP OUT

**February 2023**

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New regulations on safety standards for passenger ships have been approved by parliament and vessels must comply by the first survey after 28 December 2024. Changes include additional liferafts and life jackets, fire detection and extinction, bilge pumps and alarms, and new stability requirements.

Waverley Excursions An appeal was launched on 19 January to raise the £180 000 needed for the ship's dry docking.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses The GLAD TIDINGS VI has been advertised for sale.

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE went to Hull on 9 November, but her dry-docking was delayed until 27 January. She is again being chartered by the RSPB for birdwatching cruises; there are trips on 28 dates from 7 May to 16 September; telephone (01262) 422211.

THAMES

Thames River Sightseeing Sailings will be every 40 minutes in March then half-hourly from 1 April.

London Party Boats The WYNDHAM GRAND has been renamed ONYX OF LONDON and is advertised as available for charter from March. The company, established in 2003, now has five boats.

Thames Luxury Charters THE EDWARDIAN has been advertised for sale.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA will offer public trips from Bourne End on Bank Holiday weekends, 27-29 May and 26-28 August. There will be some special trips to mark the steamer's 140th birthday.

Salter's Steamers The only public service is Oxford-Abingdon which runs on Mondays to Thursdays from 24 July to 31 August. As usual 40-minute trips will run from Oxford and Marlow.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST CLARE arrived in Falmouth for refit on 25 January.

The Solent Steam Packet There will be an additional public cruise on 24 June to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the EMPIRE WINDRUSH with Caribbean immigrants.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The CORSAIRE DE SERCQ went to St-Malo, her previous home port, on 23 January for refit.

Jersey Duchess Two-hour public cruises will run from 7 April to 22 October.

Manche Iles Express There was a reduction in the number of passengers last season because French citizens now need a passport and can no longer use their national identity cards to visit the islands. As a consequence there are fears the service will cease after the 2023 season.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth There are trips to Brixham Pirate Festival on 29 April and 1 May. The first Sidmouth trip is on 30 April. Day trips to Torquay and Brixham are on Thursdays from 25 May to 28 September. There is a day trip to Dartmouth on 26 August for the regatta.

Paignton Belle (Yellow Boat Cruises) has ceased trading. They ran from Paignton and Torquay in 2021 and 2022 with the PRIDE OF PAIGNTON, originally the Dartmouth ferry ADRIAN GILBERT.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Totnes sailings run from 4 April to 26 October with two round trips on up to six days a week. A new contract with the Paddle Steamer Kingswear Castle Trust was signed in January to keep the KINGSWEAR CASTLE on the Dart for the next 25 years.

Greenway Ferry The CHRISTIE BELLE's Dartmouth-Greenway service runs daily from 2 March.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet Avon Gorge cruises are scheduled for 50 dates from 19 March to 7 December. The narrow boat REDSHANK, used for harbour cruises, is being converted to electric drive. Day trips to Bath are no longer advertised.

Bristol Ferry Boats Trips upriver to Beese's Riverside Bar are offered at weekends from 1 April and on some Thursdays. The company no longer offers Avon Gorge cruises.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Princess River Cruises, Nottingham The NOTTINGHAM PRINCE was sold last year and is now in Manchester.

Lincoln Boat Trips The BRAYFORD BELLE's trips begin on 7 April.

Friends of the Cromford Canal There will be no horse-drawn trips as the horse has died. Powered trips are due to resume in April.

NORTH WEST

Manchester River Cruises were the buyers of the NOTTINGHAM PRINCE which has been renamed ISABELLA. She will run with the PRINCESS KATHERINE.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Delivery of the MANXMAN will be delayed because of a gearbox fault discovered during sea trials. The BEN-MY-CHREE will continue as the main vessel until the MANXMAN is ready.

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# TRIP OUT

**March 2023**

David Attenborough's new BBC TV series on the wildlife of the British Isles will feature the puffins on Skomer island off West Wales. Our wildlife is already a big attraction on boat trips with people keen to see puffins, seals, dolphins and other creatures. Seahouses, a fishing village in Northumberland, has more passenger boats than any holiday resort. Winter bird-watching cruises attract passengers to boats on Poole Harbour and the Exe estuary. With many passenger boats dependent on wildlife, any media attention is to be welcomed.

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

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Waverley Excursions Timetables have been published for sailings in Scotland in May and on 14-15 October. The dry dock appeal had raised £150 000 by 28 February towards the £180 000 needed for this year's refit.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Boats to the Farne Islands will be unable to land passengers on Inner Farne and Staple Islands because of bird flu, but will continue to offer cruises round the islands and visits to Longstone as last year.

THAMES

Woolwich Ferry The service was suspended from 18 February to 5 March for "essential engineering works" at the terminals. The two ferries went to Chatham for maintenance.

Thames River Boats There are trips between Richmond and Hampton Court on 18, 19, 25 and 26 March. Daily sailings from Westminster to Kew, Richmond and Hampton Court start on 1 April.

Thames Luxury Charters The DIXIE QUEEN arrived in Lowestoft for refit on 14 February.

Turk Launches Hampton Court trips start on 25 March. Richmond services are at weekends in April.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST CLARE returned to Portsmouth from Falmouth on 7 February. On the Lymington route, the summer timetable from 27 March to 10 September has two ships with hourly sailings.

Red Funnel Ferries The Southampton car ferry terminal will be closed for repairs on 5-9 and 19-23 March; ferries will run from berth 25 in the docks with a connecting bus for foot passengers. The summer car ferry schedule with hourly sailings runs from 31 March to 31 October.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole An extensive programme of bird-watching cruises on Poole Harbour and round the coast in boats chartered from Greenslade is offered by Birds of Poole Harbour (telephone 01202 641003).

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The BRAMBLE BUSH BAY was towed back into Poole Harbour by the tug MERCIA on 7 February and was put back on the chains on the 17th. The service resumed on 27 February after a break of nearly four months.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Funfish Trips, Brixham, have bought the PRIDE OF PAIGNTON and she now carries their orange, red and yellow livery.

Plymouth Boat Trips Harbour cruises and the Cawsand service will run daily from 1 April to 29 October. Calstock trips are on 28 dates from 3 April to 24 October, most also calling at Cotehele, and cruises to the river Yealm are on 26 dates. Fishing trips are no longer advertised and the RONNOCH MOR has been offered for sale.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Ilfracombe Coastal Cruises The ILFRACOMBE PRINCESS begins her season 2 April. Last year she carried 18 759 passengers on 311 trips.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips The BOSTON BELLE's 4½-hour cruises into the Wash to see seals are on 14 dates from 28 April to 5 October. The PRINCE GEORGE offers river cruises on Wednesdays and Sundays.

NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries Manchester Ship Canal cruises to Latchford and back are scheduled for just nine dates this year. There are Liverpool Bay cruises on four dates and a 3-hour RSPB bird-watching cruise is scheduled for 1 July.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE is to be dry-docked in Birkenhead between 23 and 30 March. The MANANNAN will cover daytime sailings to Heysham while the ARROW will do overnight freight services.

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# TRIP OUT

**April 2023**

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Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY went from Glasgow to Greenock on 16 March and was in dry dock until the 25th.  The appeal has raised the necessary £180 000 to complete her refit.  The WAVERLEY will sail from Liverpool to Llandudno on 20 and 21 June; afternoon cruises from Llandudno on both dates are already "sold out".

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington  The start of the YORKSHIRE BELLE's season is delayed until 29 April.

THAMES

Lee & Stort Boat Co will be unable to run to Hertford because of redevelopment there.  On seven Saturdays there will be a 3-hour cruise from Ware downriver to Stanstead Abbots.  From Stratford there is a 3-hour cruise on the last Sunday of each month.

Thames Cruises  All five boats have been advertised for sale.

French Brothers  The service from Runnymede and Staines to Hampton Court runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13 June to 7 September, except 27 and 29 June.  One-hour steamboat cruises from Windsor are on various dates from 3 June; steamboat trips between Runnymede and Windsor are on 21 May, 18 June and 24 September.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink  The WIGHT SUN was dry docked at Falmouth in March.

Red Funnel Ferries  The RED EAGLE arrived back from Falmouth on 2 April after a stay of nearly four months.  The start of the summer car ferry timetable is delayed until 6 April, and there will be a reduced service between 17 and 27 April.

'Coral Star', Yarmouth  A catamaran to carry over 100 passengers has been ordered from Blyth Catamarans for delivery in 2024.  It will be similar to the SERENITY IV, built last year to run from Seahouses, and will run a regular service to Lymington under the name Quay 2 Quay.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth  The DORSET BELLE has a new owner, Colin Palmer, after five years with Dave Wilcock who ran her on the Thames estuary then Bournemouth.  She made her first trips of the season on 2 April.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole  Harbour cruises are daily from 2 April.  The PURBECK GEM's trips to Wareham are on various dates from 7 May to 7 October.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

The governments of Jersey and Guernsey plan to relax entry rules for French day trippers to allow them to visit with their national identity card instead of a passport.

Condor Ferries  The STRAITSMAN is being bought from Bluebridge in New Zealand with finance from the Guernsey government.  A near-sister of the COMMODORE CLIPPER, she was built in 2005 to run to the Danish island of Bornholm as the DUEODDE, and has been in New Zealand since 2010.  She made her last trips between North and South Islands in March and is due to reach British waters in June.  She will run from Portsmouth as the CONDOR ISLANDER.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth The PRIDE OF EXMOUTH has gone to Portland for her annual refit. Her first coastal cruise from Exmouth is due on 19 April. All-day geology cruises are on 11 May and 18 September; evening cruises to Countess Wear are on 20 May and 2 August; cruises to air shows are on 3 and 4 June in Tor Bay, 1 July in Teignmouth and 25 August in Sidmouth.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The Exmouth ferry begins on 5 April.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE is expected to return to service in July.

Mevagissey Ferries The season is due to start on 27 April.

Fal River From 1 April to 28 October there are sailings to Trelissick and Malpas, but there is no connecting bus from Malpas and no car parking there.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III made her first trip of the season as scheduled on 20 March.

Jubilee Queen, Padstow The season starts on 6 April.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's return to service, scheduled for 28 March, has been delayed until at least 2 May. She has been at Sharpness since 14 November but work has been held up by "unexpected winter damage and a subsequent delay in key parts arriving from overseas."

Bristol Ferry Boats The EMILY has returned to service after being rebuilt.

NORTH WEST

Anderton Boat Lift After being closed for repairs since last July, the lift reopens on 7 April and the EDWIN CLARK will be able to resume trips on the lift.

Mersey Ferries Special 'Eurovision' cruises will run between 5 and 13 May as the contest is held in Liverpool.

Windermere Lake Cruises Services from Bowness to Ferry House and from Lakeside to Fell Foot Park resume this year for the first time since 2019.

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston After engine and shaft repairs are completed, the GONDOLA's season should start on 7 April.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co After running to Heysham while the BEN-MY-CHREE was dry-docked, the MANANNAN began running from Liverpool on 31 March as scheduled.

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# TRIP OUT

**May 2023**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY returned to Glasgow from Greenock on 12 April after dry-docking. Her first sailing is from Glasgow on 19 May and she goes to Oban on the 23rd. After completing her sailings from Oban on 29 May, the WAVERLEY has an evening cruise from Warrenpoint on 30 May, then runs on the Bristol Channel from 2 June, finishing with cruises from Milford Haven on 18 June. Ports of call include Portishead, Porthcawl, Weston and Tenby.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE returned from Hull on 23 April and trips from Bridlington started on 29 April.

THAMES

Oceandiva The OCEANDIVA has been launched at the Veka shipyard in Lemmer in the Netherlands. She sailed to Amsterdam on 30 April.

Thames Clippers The first of two new hybrid catamarans is named EARTH CLIPPER and was launched by Wight Shipyard Co at East Cowes in April.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Special cruises to celebrate the history of the PRINCESS MARINA are scheduled for 17 May, 14 June, 12 July and 9 August.

SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED OSPREY went to Falmouth on 17 April and returned to Southampton on 5 May when the summer three-ship timetable belatedly started.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL left Southampton on 16 April for dry docking in Falmouth and was back on 3 May.

City Cruises, Poole, are buying the catamaran CLYDE CLIPPER from Clyde Marine Services. She was built by David Abels in Bristol in 2009 for service on the Clyde but has seen little use in recent years. She is currently in the Ardmaleish boatyard near Rothesay and is due in Poole in a few weeks. The HARBOUR SCENE is not scheduled to sail this season but is moored at Poole Quay. The PURBECK PRIDE, acquired last year from Greenslade, is now in City Cruises' colours with a blue hull.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The STRAITSMAN was renamed CONDOR ISLANDER and registered in the Bahamas before leaving Wellington on 19 April to sail via Tahiti and the Panama Canal.

WEST OF ENGLAND

River Exe Café, Exmouth, is a restaurant on a purpose-built static barge in the estuary, with access by boat from Exmouth. Two 12-passenger boats have been used but the MEDINA MIST has been bought from Falmouth.

M Pill, Falmouth The MEDINA MIST left Falmouth on 29 April to go to her new owners in Exmouth. She had run in Falmouth since 2006, initially as the HAVEN ROSE then reverting to her original name of MEDINA MIST in 2010.

Fal River High-tide trips from Falmouth to Truro are on seven dates from 20 April to 15 September.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co announced on 18 April that private finance had been arranged to build replacements for the SCILLONIAN III and the cargo vessels GRY MARITHA and LYONESSE LADY. Lombard NatWest will lend £33.6 million for the new vessels which will be delivered by March 2026. The Steamship company is in discussions with several shipyards.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's return to service has been delayed further and she will not be running to Lundy until at least 20 May.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester has opened a summer exhibition about the history of the QUEEN BOADICEA II but boat trips have not yet started.

NORTH WEST

Westmorland & Furness Council Since 1 April this new authority has replaced Cumbria County Council as operator of the Windermere ferry.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The new MANXMAN is due to be handed over on 10 May and should arrive in British waters in June.

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# TRIP OUT

**June 2023**

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Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY completed her Scottish sailings in fine weather with good passenger numbers.  After a sold-out evening cruise from Warrenpoint on 30 May, she called at Ilfracombe the next day and began her Bristol Channel cruises on 2 June.  She continues until 18 June but most trips are now sold out.  The south coast timetables were published on 8 May.  Sailings between 1 and 20 September include calls at Poole, Ryde and, for the first time ever, Shoreham.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses  The GLAD TIDINGS is for sale for £18 000.

EAST ANGLIA

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services  The GLORIA has been sold after five years at Harwich and was transported by road to the new owner in Falmouth.

THAMES

Oceandiva  The OCEAN DIVA left IJmuiden on 18 May and was towed by the tug KINGSTON to Tilbury.  On the 20th local tugs took her up to the King George V Dock at North Woolwich for fitting out, trials and crew training.  With a length of 86 m, a beam of 17 m and three passenger decks, she will only be able to operate downstream of London Bridge.  She will be available for charter for functions and events, with passenger capacity initially limited to 400.

Picture from owners.

Thames River Boats  Since 29 May the PRINCESS FREDA has been calling at Hammerton's Ferry in Twickenham on her trips from Richmond to Hampton Court.

Bygone Boating, Benson, started a ferry service on 7 May, replacing a footbridge over Benson Weir which is unsafe and expected to take three years to replace.  Telephone mobile 07375 677823.

SOUTH COAST

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth  The DORSET BELLE was detained by police on 1 June following a tragedy on 31 May when two young people were drowned whilst swimming at Bournemouth.  The police said the victims had not been in contact with any boat, but the causes are still being investigated while the DORSET BELLE's trips have not resumed.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR ISLANDER has passed through the Panama Canal and, after a stop at Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, is now crossing the Atlantic to Santander where she will be refitted.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Exeter Cruises The SOUTHERN COMFORT began her season on 20 May.

Torpoint Ferry The PLYM II was taken out of service on 29 April and towed to Falmouth for her 5-yearly survey.

M Pill (Kernow Cruises), Falmouth The GLORIA arrived by road from Harwich on 19 May. Her yellow hull has been repainted blue and she will soon start angling trips from the Prince of Wales Pier

Fal River On Thursdays from 1 June there are evening sailings to St Mawes with a last departure from St Mawes at 2145.

Truro River Cruises ceased after a single season with the TRURO BELLE in 2021, with the owners blaming rising costs.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG arrived in Bideford 29 May after over six months at Sharpness and resumed running to Lundy on 3 June.

Bristol Ferry Boats There was a major fire in the historic Underfall Yard on 6 May, destroying the company's maintenance base. None of the boats or staff was there at the time. A man has been charged with arson.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II began her season on 31 May. Trips are on Wednesdays to Saturdays at 1200 and 1330. New this year are 2-hour tea and cake cruises on certain afternoons, starting on 10 June.

NORTH WEST

E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon The QUEEN OF THE SEA's season began on 4 June.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN left Ulsan on 13 May and has called at Hong Kong, Singapore and Colombo on her delivery voyage via the Suez Canal.

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 © G P Hamer 5 June 2023

# TRIP OUT

**July 2023**

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Waverley Excursions  The WAVERLEY arrived back in Glasgow on 22 June after very successful sailings on the Bristol Channel and from Liverpool, with most sold out in advance. The sailing on 9 June from Swansea and Ilfracombe around Lundy was cancelled because of forecast winds. She began her Clyde season on 23 June as planned. Timetables for the autumn Thames sailings are still awaited.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses  Three boats have been sold. The GLAD TIDINGS has gone to a new operator in Guernsey and was taken by road to Poole. The GLAD TIDINGS III has gone to Amble. The ST CUTHBERT II is apparently going to Liverpool.

Puffin Cruises, Amble, has been running 1-hour cruises around Coquet Island since 1969 in 12-seater boats. This year they have bought the GLAD TIDINGS III. Telephone mobile 07752 861914.

RiverShack, Stockton-on-Tees, is offering a reduced service this season with fewer public trips. The JUNO is for sale for £17 000.

EAST ANGLIA

'Viking Saga', Maldon, began 40-minute trips in June. Longer 1½-hour cruises past Osea Island are on 9 July and 3 September.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours has bought the CRUISER from Clyde Marine Services. She arrived in the Medway on 28 June after sailing via the Caledonian Canal, Buckie, Aberdeen, Whitby and Lowestoft. She was built at Brightlingsea in 1974 as the SOUTHSEA QUEEN and was later the HYTHE HOTSPUR then POOLE SCENE before going to Scotland in 1999.  Details of her Thames sailings will be announced soon.

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice, has bought the ALFRED LEROY from the Crate Brewery and she will be used for charter trips, based at Camden.

Hobbs of Henley  The CONSUTA has been sold to Rederi Ab Vitharun in Finland and began cruises on the Aura river in Turku on 5 July as Turku River Cruises' AURELLA.

SOUTH COAST

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth  The DORSET BELLE did not return to service in June and was handed over to new owners from Brixham on 27 June. Since the start of the season she had been chartered to a new operator, not sold as previously reported, but Island Cruises had substantial debts after running unsuccessfully on the Thames. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch is not investigating the tragic deaths on 31 May as no boat was involved.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries  The CONDOR ISLANDER arrived in Santander on 12 June, 54 days after leaving New Zealand, and is being dry-docked there before leaving for Britain on 27 July.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co  The CORSAIRE DE SERCQ was at St-Malo for refit from 12 May to 4 July.

Herm Island has signed a new 5-year contract with Trident who will be paid to provide a year-round service to the island. Since 14 June Trident is the sole operator and the HERM LASS and ISLE OF HERM have ceased operating.
Guernsey Coastal Cruises, a new operator, has bought the GLAD TIDINGS from Seahouses. She arrived from Poole on board the cargo ship TRINITY on 13 June and began running 1½-hour cruises to Saint's Bay on 24 June. Telephone mobile 07839 128338.

WEST OF ENGLAND
J & M Rackley, Starcross The PRINCESS MARINA will resume trips from Dawlish this summer for the first time since 2019.
Funfish Trips, Brixham, have bought the DORSET BELLE which was renamed DOLPHIN PRINCESS and repainted in Funfish's distinctive colours at Poole.
Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE is now expected to return to service in July. The PSPS has two evening cruises in aid of the steamer: on 31 July to Totnes, her only trip to Totnes this year, and on 19 August towards Stoke Gabriel.
Plymouth Boat Trips The SPIRIT OF PLYMOUTH has been sold and is now in Ireland.
Torpoint Ferry The PLYM II returned to service on 26 June after her refit in Falmouth.

BRISTOL CHANNEL
Lundy Company The next coastal cruise from Bideford to Ilfracombe is on 10 July.
Bristol Packet The café on the static narrow boat GREENSHANK has been repaired and has reopened, two years after sinking.
Cardiff Cruises has taken over Aquabus with its three vessels and services.

NORTH WEST
Windermere Lake Cruises A dispute over crews' commentaries has led to the resignation of one boatmaster after the company told them not to mention slavery in relation to lakeside mansions built for businessmen involved in the slave trade. Some passengers are said to have complained about references to slavery.

IRISH SEA
Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN sailed via Malta and then Southampton for additional fitting out, arriving in Douglas on 2 July. After trials and crew training she is due to enter service later this month, replacing the BEN-MY-CHREE. She measures 24161 gross tons, making her the biggest ship in the company's history.

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# TRIP OUT

**August 2023**

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Waverley Excursions  Timetables for Thames sailings, from 22 September to 8 October, were published on 10 July.  On 23 September there is a sailing from Ipswich, her first for over 20 years.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses  The FARNE'S LASS was delivered by Blyth Catamarans in July.  She is a 15-metre catamaran with an upper deck and can carry 127 passengers.

THAMES

Woolwich Ferry  Both ferries have gone to Middlesbrough for repairs and the service is suspended from 24 July until 4 September.  The BEN WOOLLACOTT arrived on 5 July and the DAME VERA LYNN on the 25th.

Thames Clippers  The new EARTH CLIPPER was delivered from Cowes to London on 7 July.

Thames Cruises has suspended operations and is not taking any more charter bookings.

Colliers Launches  The PRINCESS FREDA will as usual be going to Reading to run ferry services at the Reading Festival, taking place on 25-27 August.  The CLIFTON CASTLE will replace her between Richmond and Hampton Court.

Salter's Steamers will be offering short trips from Wallingford on 2 and 3 September as part of the town's annual Bunkfest.

SOUTH COAST

Solent Cruises  The JENNY ANN was sold in 2020 and is now in the Isles of Scilly.  The SOLENT CAT has been based at Cowes this summer after three seasons working for City Cruises at Poole.

'Coral Star', Yarmouth  The new catamaran was launched on 19 July as the BLYTH 216.  She is a sister of the FARNE'S LASS.

Dorset Belle Pleasure Cruises, Bournemouth  After investigating the deaths of two young swimmers on 31 May, Dorset police have confirmed the DORSET BELLE was not involved and that no crime was committed.

City Cruises, Poole  The acquisition of the CLYDE CLIPPER now seems to be in some doubt: this summer she is running for Crannog Cruises from Fort William.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries  The CONDOR ISLANDER left Santander on 28 July and made trial calls at St Peter Port and St Helier on 31 July, St-Malo on 1 August and Portsmouth on the 3rd, before going to Poole where fitting out will be completed.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross  The PRINCESS MARINA began cruises from Starcross on 28 July and will run from Dawlish on fine days.

Funfish Trips, Brixham  The DOLPHIN PRINCESS (ex DORSET BELLE) sailed from Poole to Brixham on 6 July.  Her first passenger trips were on 25 July: 1-hour cruises from Torquay at 1130 and 1245, and from Brixham at 1430 and 1530.  The Torbay-Teignmouth trip will run on Saturdays in August and Wednesdays from 30 August to 27 September, by boat in one direction then returning by train.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE returned to service on 25 July, doing 55-minute cruises at 1100, 1215, 1330 and 1515 daily, except Fridays when another boat will be used.

Plymouth Boat Trips The SPIRIT OF PLYMOUTH has been renamed CAILIN DEISE by her new owner in Waterford who also runs the BARROW PRINCESS, previously the VOYAGER OF ST MARTIN'S in the Isles of Scilly.

Tresco Boat Services bought the JENNY ANN in 2020 and renamed her FALDORE. She had previously worked in the Isles of Scilly, as Bryher Boat Services' FALDORE II from 1996 to 2014.

NORTH WEST

Liverpool Boat Tour runs 30-minute trips from the Albert Dock in the PRINCESS, previously the PRINCESS ROYAL of Broads Tours then at Cardiff. She arrived in Liverpool in April 2018 then had a prolonged refit before starting trips in 2021.

Windermere Lake Cruises A launch will run a service from Hill of Oaks Lodge & Caravan Park to Lakeside on Tuesdays and Saturdays until 28 October.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The LADY OF THE LAKE has been made a "flagship" of 2023 by National Historic Ships.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN has made trial calls at Heysham and Belfast. She will initially operate the daytime round trip from Douglas to Heysham while the BEN-MY-CHREE will maintain the overnight service, but the MANXMAN's starting date has not been announced.

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 © G P Hamer 3 August 2023

# TRIP OUT

**September 2023**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Clyde programme on 27 August and left the next day via Campbeltown for the south coast, arriving in Swanage on the 30th. She had a trial call at Ryde on 31 August then went to Southampton. Her south coast sailings began on 1 September.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

W Shiel, Seahouses The FARNE'S LASS has been joined by a sister, the FARNE'S MAIDEN, launched by Blyth Catamarans as BLYTH 216. The two 127-passenger catamarans replace the smaller boats sold earlier this year.

Puffin Cruises, Amble The GLAD TIDINGS III, bought from W Shiel, was ready to run trips on 5 September.

THAMES

Jetstream Tours The CRUISER made her first passenger trips on 17 August from Queenborough and Southend, instead of the JACOB MARLEY. On Bank Holiday Monday she did a day trip from Gravesend to Southend and another is planned for 24 October.

Woolwich Ferry The DAME VERA LYNN left Middlesbrough on 23 August and was in Woolwich on the 25th and the BEN WOOLLACOTT followed four days later. The ferry service resumed on 4 September after a break of six weeks.

Oceandiva The OCEAN DIVA went to Chatham for some repairs and returned to London on 14 August, but has not entered commercial service.

Thames River Sightseeing A half-hourly service is due to continue until 5 November, and sailings will then be every 40 minutes for the rest of the year.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The WIGHT SKY left Lymington on 5 September for dry docking in Falmouth. The Lymington route is reduced to a two-hourly one-ship service from 11 September after midday on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 23 September all day at weekends.

Red Funnel Ferries The winter timetable runs from 1 November to 27 March with, as usual, car ferry sailings every 1½ hours.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL went to Poole on 28 August and returned to Southampton on 4 September when she met the WAVERLEY off Hurst Point.

'Coral Star', Yarmouth The BLYTH 216, reported last month to be for Yarmouth, is at Seahouses. Another sistership will be built to run between Yarmouth and Lymington.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER will be off service from 13 to 25 September and will be replaced by the freight ferry ARROW chartered from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. The CONDOR ISLANDER visited Southampton on 25-17 August and then returned to Poole to continue her internal refit.

Herm Island The ISLE OF HERM has been advertised for sale by her builders, Blyth Catamarans, for £700 000. She is laid-up at St Sampson's, Guernsey, with the HERM LASS following a new contract with Trident to run all year from Guernsey to Herm.

WEST OF ENGLAND

The Harland & Wolff shipyard has announced a plan to build and operate new ships to serve the Isles of Scilly from spring 2025. The company would use £48 million of government "levelling-up" money, while the Isles of Scilly Steamship Co proposes to borrow money commercially. There would be "enhanced on-board facilities and amenities" compared with the proposal of the Steamship Co.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The PRINCESS MARINA did trips from Dawlish on 6 August for the first time since 2019.

Funfish Trips, Brixham Trips from Paignton resumed in mid-August with sailings to Torquay and to Brixham. Day trips from Brixham and Torquay to Exmouth are scheduled for 9 September and eight other dates in September and October.

Fal River ran a service between the Prince of Wales Pier and Falmouth Docks during the Tall Ships event on 15-17 August.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III's season ends on 5 November and sailings resume on 18 March 2024.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Away2dine, Birmingham, has ceased trading and the restaurant boat MOIRA ROSE has been sold.

NORTH WEST

'Judith Mary II', Whaley Bridge The owner, Allen Kelsall, plans to retire and the business is for sale.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Additional cruises have been scheduled for 18 September, and 4 and 5 October after trips between 16 June and 17 July and on 7 and 8 August had to be cancelled because of broken swing bridges on the river Weaver. The DANIEL ADAMSON was able to run cruises to and from Liverpool on 5-6 August.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The winter timetable, from 29 October, as usual has three sailings daily from Glenridding.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN made her first commercial sailing on 17 August at 0845 from Douglas and 1415 from Heysham. She shares the service with the BEN-MY-CHREE until 28 October then runs alone, including sailings to Belfast on 24 and 31 December.

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# TRIP OUT

**October 2023**

Last year's fine summer weather was not repeated this year. After a warm June, the weather was wet and unsettled in July and little better in August. There was a heatwave in the first half of September after the peak holiday season. Trade at the seaside resorts was generally poor as more people took holidays abroad while others were unable to afford any holidays.

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

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY'S south coast sailings went well until 17 September when the weather prevented her from going beyond the Solent. With poor weather forecast for the next few days, she left for the Thames and trips on the 19th and 20th were cancelled. She began her Thames programme on 22 September as scheduled. There were no sailings from Harwich and on 5 October a sailing originally advertised for Harwich was replaced by a second trip from Ipswich.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

RiverShack, Stockton-on-Tees The JUNO did not run this year because the skipper was suffering from a ruptured disc.

EAST ANGLIA

Brightlingsea Harbour Commission has introduced the COLNE INNOVATION, a 12-passenger electric boat, which offers trips to Wivenhoe and charters.

THAMES

Oceandiva The OCEANDIVA will not be ready for commercial service until next year.

Bateaux London ceased trading on 19 September. The French conglomerate Sodexho (later renamed Sodexo) took over Catamaran Cruisers in 1992 and continued to run sightseeing trips from Charing Cross until 2007, subsequently running restaurant cruises under the name Bateaux London. The HARMONY (ex SAGA QUEEN in Copenhagen) and SYMPHONY (ex LE CRISTAL in Paris) are laid up.

Thames River Boats Sailings from Westminster to Richmond and Hampton Court continue to 21 October, and Richmond to Hampton Court until the 29th. Westminster-Kew services will run at weekends until 23 December.

Thames Cruises The OLD LONDON has been sold for conversion to a houseboat. She was built in 1979 as the KINGSTON and became the OLD LONDON in 1985.

French Brothers Short trips from Windsor will continue at weekends after 29 October.

SOUTH COAST

Littlehampton Ferry did not operate this year because funding from Littlehampton Town Council was withdrawn.

Wightlink The WIGHT SKY was at Falmouth until 26 September. The WIGHT LIGHT left on 3 October for her dry-docking in Falmouth.

Blue Funnel Cruises On 7 September the Hythe ferry service with the HYTHE SCENE was acquired by Red Funnel. Blue Funnel Ferries Ltd has been renamed Hythe and Southampton Ferry Co Ltd. The service had been run by Blue Funnel since April 2017. Hythe Pier is owned by a trust and is not affected.
City Cruises, Poole Winter harbour cruises are daily (except Mondays and Fridays) in November and December and from 10 February.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER was at Portland from 13 to 20 September. The CONDOR ISLANDER starts in mid-October, taking overnight sailings from Portsmouth and returning by day, running opposite the COMMODORE CLIPPER. There are no Poole sailings from 31 October to 20 December while the CONDOR VOYAGER runs between St-Malo and the islands. From 6 January to 19 February French sailings are from Cherbourg instead of St-Malo.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co River cruises are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in November and December and from 13 February.
Plymouth Boat Trips Harbour cruises are daily until 29 October then on Thursdays and Saturdays in winter.
Isles of Scilly Steamship Co has chosen French builder Piriou to build the SCILLONIAN IV and a new cargo ship. The contract is due to be signed in October and the ships will be built at Piriou's yard in Vietnam and completed at their yard in Concarneau to enter service in 2026.

## BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boats A trial commuter service from Netham Lock to Temple Meads and the city centre was due to run from 16 to 24 September. The waterbus service between Temple Meads, the Centre and the Cottage Inn runs this month from Thursdays to Sundays, then in November and December at weekends and school holidays.

## NORTH WEST

Windermere Lake Cruises The winter timetable from 30 October to 22 March has daily services, though Lakeside is only served at weekends between 8 January and 2 February. The SWIFT provides some of the sailings between Bowness, Brockhole and Ambleside, while the smaller vessels do the rest.

## IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co is in a dispute with trade unions over new manning arrangements for the MANXMAN. Crews will be expected to live aboard rather than going home between each round trip.

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Thames sailings on 8 October and left for Glasgow, arriving on the 13th after calling at Plymouth for fuel and at Campbeltown. She made a trial call at Plymouth's Barbican landing stage on 10 October to prepare for trips there next year. She completed her two final sailings from Glasgow on 14 and 15 October. The ship sailed on 124 days and the season is said to be the best for over 20 years, with 157 000 passenger journeys. The 2024 season is due to begin on 17 May.

NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Teesside Princess, Stockton-on-Tees, continues to offer cruises with meals or entertainment through the winter.

RiverShack, Stockton-on-Tees, is closing after ten years. The JUNO left on 2 November by road for Bristol. She was bought from Whitby as the KERRERA in 2016 and ran on the Tees for eight seasons.

THAMES

Absolute Party Boats The SALIENT, bought last year from Crown River Cruises, was renamed REVELRY in October. Her white hull is now blue and the ROYALTY had similar treatment in her October dry docking.

Thames Clippers The EARTH CLIPPER, delivered by Wight Shipyard in July, is to be joined by two sisters, to be named CELESTIAL CLIPPER and MARS CLIPPER.

London Party Boats have bought the RIVER PRINCESS from Thames Cruises. She was built in 1974 as the CHEVENING and has operated as the RIVER PRINCESS since 2015. London Party Boats was established in 2003 and now has six boats.

Thames River Boats The CONNAUGHT made the last trips of the season to Richmond and Hampton Court on 29 October.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The WIGHT LIGHT arrived back in Lymington on 23 October after dry docking in Falmouth.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole Three-hour bird-watching cruises are offered on various dates this winter by Birds of Poole Harbour (telephone 01202 641003).

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR ISLANDER went from Poole to Portsmouth on 20 October and made her first passenger sailing on the 22nd from Portsmouth to Guernsey. She was unable to go on to Jersey because of a technical problem and returned to Portsmouth. She then ran as scheduled until the 26th when another problem required a spell in dry dock in Birkenhead. She eventually returned to Portsmouth on 7 November ready to resume service. The freight ferry COMMODORE GOODWILL ran during her absence.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Western Lady Ferry Service The last trips of the season were on 12 October.

Funfish Trips, Brixham, has advertised the PAIGNTON PRINCESS and SHEPHERD LASS for sale, for £47 000 and £28 000, respectively. The BRIXHAM BELLE did not run this year but will be retained to run with the TORBAY CLIPPER and DOLPHIN PRINCESS.
Plymouth Boat Trips 3-hour bird and wildlife cruises were scheduled for 29 October and for 18 November, and 10 and 24 February. The ISLAND PRINCESS is for sale for £52 500 (+ VAT).
Tamara Landscape Partnership plans to reopen the ferry at Calstock with a new electric boat. It will start next year and run for a two-year trial.
J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) The PRINCESSA has been advertised for sale because of "unworkable restrictions being imposed on us by the local authority". The problem relates to limits on times allowed at the Prince of Wales Pier.
Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III made her last trip on 31 October as remaining sailings were cancelled by the weather.
Harland & Wolff has held public consultations in the Isles of Scilly to promote plans to build and run new ships for the islands. The rival plans for shipping services have led to fierce debate in Scilly and beyond.

BRISTOL CHANNEL
Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's passenger service next year is from 26 March to 25 October.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS
Canal and River Tours, Stratford Trips are scheduled to run daily except from 18 December to 26 January.

NORTH WEST
Manchester River Cruises Cruises run on some dates from Ralli Quays until 11 November and from Salford Quays until 15 December.
Coniston Launch Sailings are daily until 26 November and from 3 February, and at weekends in December and January.
Keswick Launch Co Sailings are daily until 12 November then at weekends until the 26th. After a winter break, weekend sailings resume on 3 February, with a daily service between 10 and 25 February and from 9 March.

IRISH SEA
Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE made her last trip to Heysham on 25 October and went to Harland & Wolff in Belfast on 1 November. The MANXMAN will run alone through the winter. Next year there will be 18 sailings to Dublin, all by the MANNANAN.

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# TRIP OUT

**December 2023**

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

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EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich  Next year's public trips are from 30 March to 31 October.

THAMES

Thames Rivercruise, Reading  Short trips will run at weekends from 30 March to 27 October and will be daily in school holidays, except on 19-27 August during the Reading Festival. Cream tea cruises to Shiplake or Pangbourne are on 12 Tuesdays. The trip to Goring with a cruise towards Moulsford will run on Thursdays 13 June, 25 July, 15 August and 5 September.

SOUTH COAST

Wightlink  The ST FAITH was in Falmouth for dry docking from 23 November to 2 December.

Red Funnel Ferries  The RED FALCON was at Falmouth for dry docking from 7 to 22 November.

Isle of Wight Council  The Floating Bridge is suspended for maintenance from 4 to 13 December and a passenger service is provided as usual by a boat chartered from Solent Cruises.

The Solent Steam Packet  The SHIELDHALL is advertised for public trips on 24 dates next year, starting on 3 May. She goes to Poole from 26 August to 2 September, with a Jurassic Coast cruise on 29 August and three cruises to the Bournemouth Air Festival.

Mudeford Ferry  The service has been suspended since 12 November because of storms and damage to the jetty at Mudeford Beach.

City Cruises, Poole  Sailings to Swanage are advertised to run daily from 30 March to 31 October 2024. Evening bird-watching cruises to the Dancing Ledge are on Fridays from 10 May to 5 July.

National Trust  Brownsea Island will be open to the public from 16 March to 3 November.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries  The CONDOR LIBERATION arrived in Falmouth for dry docking on 1 November.

Jersey Duchess  Cruises are scheduled to run daily from 3 May to 13 October.

WEST OF ENGLAND

South Hams District Council  As a trial, the winter service is increased, with two ferries running between 11 December and 4 February.

Sam Pill (Cornish Pleasure Cruises), Falmouth  The LOOK AHEAD II has been sold and is now in Brixham, but is for sale again.

Harland & Wolff issued an initial proposal on 17 November to take over the Isles of Scilly Steamship Co. They would offer £3.16 per share, making a total price of £4.6 million. The Steamship Co has rejected the offer.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG arrived in Sharpness for her winter refit on 8 November.

Bristol Packet Avon Gorge cruises are scheduled for 50 dates from 20 March to 24 November.

Bristol Ferry Boats are the new owners of the JUNO from Stockton-on-Tees. She was donated by her previous owner as both are Community Interest Companies.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Party Boats, Birmingham, has ceased trading and the ANSON was sold in June. She was built in 1958 for British Waterways' cargo carrying fleet and has run in Birmingham as a passenger boat since being converted in 1972.

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips The BOSTON BELLE's 4½-hour sea trips into the Wash are scheduled for 13 dates from 15 April to 15 October. The PRINCE GEORGE's trips on the river Witham are on Wednesdays and Sundays.

NORTH WEST

Seacoast Safaris, Beaumaris, this year introduced the SUPANOVA, a 22-passenger catamaran built by BW SeaCat at Portchester. She runs with the 54-passenger NEPTUNE EXPLORER.

Mersey Ferries Cruises into the Manchester Ship Canal are on just seven dates next year: 25 and 26 June, 9, 11 and 24 July, and 9 and 23 September. There are 3-hour cruises into Liverpool Bay on seven dates and bird-watching cruises on 30 June and 31 August.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Public cruises are on 24 dates, starting with a Liverpool-Salford sailing on 5 May, returning to the river Weaver the next day. A second visit to Salford is on 27-28 July.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE is due to replace the MANXMAN between 4 and 7 March.

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