

# TRIP OUT

**January 2024**

The Isles of Scilly Steamship Company was formed by islanders in 1920 because no other operator wanted to serve the islands. After 123 years, there is the possibility of a rival shipping service this year. The Steamship Company wants to borrow money commercially to fund new ships from a French shipbuilder instead of taking advantage of government "levelling up" money. Harland & Wolff wants to use the government money to build new ships and plans to run a fast catamaran this summer. There will never be enough traffic for two operators especially when summer profits are needed to pay for winter services. Whichever company eventually gets to build a new ship, the SCILLONIAN III - now 46 years old - has done a fine job and will be a hard act to follow.

This is the last year before new safety regulations are imposed. Some boats will need expensive work but others may no longer be viable as passenger boats.

Geoffrey Hamer

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## EAST ANGLIA

Broads Tours, Wroxham Trips will run from 19 to 23 February, on 10 March and from 28 March to 2 November.

Reedham Ferry is suspended from 9 January while the ferry has a refit in Oulton Broad.

## THAMES

Thames River Sightseeing Sailings are advertised to run every 40 minutes until 22 March, then every half hour until 27 October.

French Brothers Short trips will run from Windsor at weekends until 4 February when current floods subside, and daily from 10 February to 27 October.

Salter's Steamers will run between Oxford and Abingdon from 22 July to 29 August on Mondays to Thursdays.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED OSPREY went to Falmouth on 5 January. There is a reduced Red Jet service between 8 and 23 January as the RED JET 4 has an engine problem and the RED JET 7 will be off for her annual refit.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries A company statement on 15 December referred to a "temporary but challenging time" which may refer to financial difficulties. Freight rates in 2024 are increased by over 18%. The CONDOR LIBERATION returned from Falmouth to Poole on 14 December. This month the "Liberation" runs once weekly from Poole and three times a week from Cherbourg while the CONDOR VOYAGER is off service.

Manche Iles Express carried 52 841 passengers in 2023, a 49% increase over 2022 following a relaxation of rules to allow French visitors to use their national identity card instead of a passport.

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WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth This year's Exeter Ship Canal cruises are on 31 May, 14 June, 15 and 16 July, 13 and 26 September, and 10 and 11 December. Coastal trips include Brixham Pirate Festival on 4 and 6 May, geology day cruises on 14 May and 9 September, and day trips to Torquay and Brixham on Thursdays from 16 May to 19 September

Funfish Trips, Brixham The PAIGNTON PRINCESS has been sold and sailed to Falmouth on 14 December.

Scilly Ferries is the name chosen by Harland & Wolff for their new service. They plan to run a summer service with the fast catamaran AREMITI 5, built by Austal Ships in Australia in 2004 to run between Tahiti and Moorea in the Pacific. She is 56 m long and could carry over 400 passengers and 30 cars, though cars will not be carried to Scilly.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG returned to Bideford on 16 December after her refit in Sharpness.

NORTH WEST

Manchester River Cruises Sightseeing cruises from Salford Quays are on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays in January and February. The landing at Ralli Quay has closed.

Mersey Ferries A new diesel-electric ferry has been ordered from Cammell Laird in Birkenhead for delivery by the end of 2025, replacing an earlier plan involving Dutch company Damen.

Windermere Lake Cruises On 3 January smoke was seen coming from the SWIFT's engine room. The 84 passengers were able to continue on another boat and the SWIFT was taken out of service.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE went to Birkenhead on 12 December for dry docking, and returned to Douglas on the 30th. The Numast union started an overtime ban on 27 December as part of their dispute over crewing arrangements for the MANXMAN. On 2 January the company announced that the MANXMAN would only be able to do one round trip a day. The company subsequently agreed to more talks and arbitration, so the MANXMAN resumed her full schedule on 8 January. The MANANNAN's Liverpool service runs from 22 March to 4 November. She also does all Dublin sailings while Belfast sailings are shared with the MANXMAN.

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# TRIP OUT

**February 2024**

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## THAMES

Southend City Council plans to invest £6.7 million in the pier over the next five years.

Jetstream Tours Trips from Queenborough and Southend are due to resume on 5 April. The current contract for the Gravesend-Tilbury ferry ends on 31 March. Kent County Council is conducting a consultation on the future of the service as the annual subsidy is estimated to be over £200 000.

Oceandiva announced on 1 February that the ship would be unable to run on the Thames because of "regulatory challenges and infrastructural inadequacies" in London. The OCEAN DIVA is expected to return to the Netherlands where the owners have two other ships.

Thames Clippers The CELESTIAL CLIPPER was delivered from East Cowes to London on 19 January.

Thames River Boats The season starts on 29 March with sailings from Westminster to Kew, from Richmond to Hampton Court and 45-minute cruises from Richmond. The first sailing from Westminster to Richmond and Hampton Court is on 5 April.

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice Trips are suspended until 3 March.

French Brothers Two-hour cruises will run from Windsor from 29 March to 29 September then at weekends in October. Runnymede-Windsor runs from 29 March to 29 September and Maidenhead-Windsor from 28 May to 29 September, but Runnymede to Hampton Court may only be for booked groups. Steamboat trips between Runnymede and Windsor are on 19 May, 16 June and 22 September; 1-hour steamboat cruises from Windsor are on most Saturdays in June and August, and Sundays in July.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST CLARE was in Falmouth from 20 January to 3 February.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED JET 7 returned to service on 29 January but the RED JET 6 had a fault and the reduced one-boat schedule continued until 5 February. The RED OSPREY returned to Southampton from Falmouth on 27 January. Some weekend night-time car ferry sailings are cancelled between 20 January and 20 March because of work at the East Cowes terminal. There will be an extra late night Red Jet service on Saturdays. The summer timetable with hourly car ferry sailings is from 28 March to 4 November.

Blue Funnel Cruises The summer programme includes five cruises to the Beaulieu river and two to Portsmouth Harbour as well as trips to land at Cowes or Hythe.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR VOYAGER is due to return to service on 9 February, running from Cherbourg to the islands until 21 February when sailings from St-Malo resume. The CONDOR LIBERATION runs from Poole. The "Liberation" will again run from Portsmouth to Cherbourg for Brittany Ferries at weekends between 12 July and 1 September.

Manche Iles Express The season extends from 19 April to 29 September. Alderney is served from Diélette on seven dates.

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WEST OF ENGLAND

River Exe Café, Exmouth The MEDINA MIST was bought from Falmouth last April but was wrecked in a storm before entering service. She was built in 1970 to run from Cowes and was later the MAID OF BROWNSEA at Poole then HAVEN ROSE at Keyhaven before going to Falmouth in 2006 and reverting to her original name in 2010.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Totnes sailings will be from 30 March to 31 October with two return trips a day on up to six days a week. The KINGSWEAR CASTLE will make trips to Totnes on 2 June and 15 September as PSPS fund-raising cruises.

Dartmouth-Kingswear Floating Bridge Co is suspended from 29 January to 11 February for annual maintenance.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co The season will start on 22 April.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co announced on 18 January that a contract had been signed with Piriou, confirming the building of the SCILLONIAN IV, due in 2026, and a new cargo ship. The SCILLONIAN III was moved into the Penzance dry dock on 11 January.

Scilly Ferries The name ATLANTIC WOLFF has been chosen for the AREMITI 5. She is still in Tahiti at the time of writing, over six weeks after Harland & Wolff announced that she would be running to Scilly in May.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

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

NORTH WEST

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The GONDOLA will run from 25 March to 3 November.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co carried 623 037 passengers in 2023, 4.6% more than in 2022 and the highest total since 2007. The BEN-MY-CHREE, laid-up in Douglas since 30 December, is not scheduled to run for the company this year.

MISCELLANY

The former Mersey ferry ROYAL DAFFODIL, laid-up since 2012 and sold in 2019, is due to open this year as a static venue in Liverpool's Canning Dock.

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# TRIP OUT

**March 2024**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY sails in Scotland from 17 to 27 May, and cruises from Warrenpoint on 28-29 May and from Fishguard (already sold out) on the 30th. She is on the Bristol Channel (timetables soon) from 31 May to 23 June, then in North Wales (Holyhead and Llandudno) and the Mersey (Seacombe) on 24-26 June. After the Clyde summer season, she is at Plymouth from 29 August to 2 September, then on the South Coast and Thames as usual.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

The National Trust will reopen Inner Farne island to visitors on 25 March. The island had been closed since July 2022 because of avian flu. Staple Island will remain closed to visitors.

Whitby Coastal Cruises The SUMMER QUEEN made her first trips of the season on 17 February.

P Richardson, Bridlington The RSPB is again chartering the YORKSHIRE BELLE for bird-watching cruises. There are 25 trips with the first on 4 May.

Sprotbrough Riverboat The WYRE LADY will offer public trips on Easter Sunday, 31 March.

## EAST ANGLIA

Reedham Ferry resumed on 10 February after its refit.

Harwich Harbour Ferry Services The ferry will run from 29 March to 31 October.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours announced on 1 March that it would not run the Gravesend-Tilbury ferry after the current contract ends on 31 March owing to uncertainty over future funding. Jetstream had run the service since May 2017.

Lee & Stort Boat Co Trips between Ware and Hertford are due to resume this year after a break of over two years because of building work in Hertford.

Oceandiva The OCEAN DIVA left London on 19 February and was towed across the North Sea by the tug MTS VALOUR to Rotterdam. She will be available for charter in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany as the OCEANDIVA NOVA. She had arrived in London in May 2023 but has been unable to operate.

Thames Clippers The MARS CLIPPER, a sister of the EARTH CLIPPER and CELESTIAL CLIPPER, was launched by Wight Shipyard on 5 March.

Terrible Thames Tour The fourth season of "horrible histories" cruises is due to start on 23 March.

Turk Launches start Hampton Court trips on 23 March and Richmond sailings on 29 March.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA will be offering 50-minute trips from Bourne End on Bank Holiday weekends, 25-27 May and 24-26 August.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED EAGLE went to Falmouth on 12 February.

Mudford Ferry The service is still suspended awaiting repairs to the pontoon at Mudford Beach which was damaged last November.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey Coastal Cruises The GLAD TIDINGS will begin her second season of coastal cruises from St Peter Port on 2 April.

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WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth The first Jurassic Coast cruise of the season is on 28 April and the first Sidmouth trip is on 18 May.  
Funfish Trips, Brixham Trips from Brixham, Paignton and Torquay to Teignmouth are on Wednesdays from 3 April to 30 October.

Mount Batten Ferry, Plymouth The Mount Batten pontoon has been closed for repairs since 30 January and the boat uses a pontoon at the nearby Watersports Centre, but has to be suspended around low tides. The PLYMOUTH BELLE is for sale and the owner wants a smaller boat.

Plymouth Boat Trips Saltash Town Council is considering ways to improve transport links and attract more visitors. On 30 March there will be a free service between Saltash and Royal William Yard by Plymouth Boat Trips. Calstock trips are on 31 dates from 5 April to 31 October; some also call at Cotehele. Cruises to the River Yealm are on 24 dates, starting on 29 March, and there are 25 breakwater cruises from 31 March.

A & D Smith (Silverline Cruises), Plymouth On 30 March there will be free service between Saltash and St Budeaux.

Fal River Sailings from Falmouth to Trelissick and Malpas will run from 1 April to 2 November. On certain dates with a high tide there will be an evening sailing to Truro.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III came out of the Penzance dry dock on 11 February. Her season begins on 18 March and runs until 30 October. There is a double trip on 2, 6, and 25 May, 1 June, and 17 and 31 August. Sunday sailings are from 7 July to 15 September.

Scilly Ferries have published a timetable for a service from 1 May to 5 October with up to two round trips a day. The AREMITI 5 is still in Tahiti so it is not clear which vessel might be used.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Lincoln Boat Trips will not be operating this year. The BRAYFORD BELLE has been run by Monna Owen since her husband died in 2013.

NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries Work is to start on a £8.6 million scheme to replace the Woodside terminal, closed since October 2022. The new terminal will open in summer 2025.

Windermere Lake Cruises The four large ships are in daily service from 23 March to 3 November.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The summer timetable from 25 March to 26 October has two boats running the length of the lake and one linking Glenridding and Aira Force. A fourth boat runs between 25 May and 8 September when there are nine trips daily between Glenridding, Howtown and Pooley Bridge.

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**April 2024**

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Waverley Excursions have published Bristol Channel timetables, starting with a sailing from Ilfracombe to Bideford on 30 May and finishing with a cruise from Milford Haven on 23 June.

## EAST ANGLIA

Horning Foot Ferry The ferry across the river Bure was revived by volunteers in 2017 but will not run this year because of declining patronage and a shortage of crew.

## THAMES

Ferries at Hampton, Sunbury, Shepperton and Benson have been unable to operate because of high water levels and strong current. Jetstream Tours The JACOB MARLEY made the last crossings of the Gravesend-Tilbury ferry on 30 March. The summer programme from 3 May to 27 October includes day trips to Southend from Gravesend, Chatham and Queenborough, cruises to the Red Sand Towers and (new this year) Shivering Sands fort, and cruises round Sheppey. The THAMES KESTREL and THAMES SWIFT are for sale.

London Party Boats The RIVER PRINCESS, acquired last year, is to be renamed SAPPHIRE OF LONDON.

Parr Boats, Kingston, have offered the TILBURY HOPE for sale for £70 000.

Hidden Depths Canal Cruises, King's Cross, has ceased trading and the FREDA is now run by The Copper Quay but is still offering charter trips from King's Cross.

## SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry will be offering some cruises this year, starting on 3 May to view maiden voyage of Cunard's QUEEN ANNE. There are harbour cruises on 24 July and 14 August, and cruises to the forts on 7 and 21 August. There are day trips to Lymington for the first time since 2019, on 22 June, 13 July and 3 August.

Wightlink The WIGHT SUN arrived in Falmouth on 7 March.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED EAGLE arrived back in Southampton on 14 March. All RED JETs were out of service on 18 March so Solent Cruises' ALI CAT and SOLENT CAT were chartered. The RED JET 6 ran from 19 to 22 March with the ALI CAT. It seems that the 21-year-old RED JET 4 may be sold.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole The first Wareham trip of the season is on 9 May.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries Christophe Mathieu, chief executive of Brittany Ferries, has taken over as interim CEO of Condor and schedules have been changed. From 22 April the CONDOR ISLANDER will sail by day from Portsmouth, the cargo ferry COMMODORE GOODWILL will sail overnight and the COMMODORE CLIPPER will sail three days a week. The CONDOR LIBERATION will do one daily round trip from Poole and will not do any Portsmouth sailings for Brittany Ferries. The BARFLEUR made a trial call at St Helier on 26 March and could be used in future.

Herm Island The ISLE OF HERM has been sold and will run from Inverness as the DOLPHIN SPIRIT. She left Guernsey on 5 March and sailed via Gosport, Dover, Lowestoft, Grimsby, Hartlepool, Eyemouth and Peterhead to arrive in Inverness on 18 March.

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WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross The Exmouth ferry started on 1 April.  
Funfish Trips, Brixham Trips from Brixham and Torquay began on 23 March. There is a day trip to Exmouth on 7 April. The DOLPHIN PRINCESS has a special day cruise on 28 April from Torquay and Brixham to off Slapton Sands. The SHEPHERD LASS has been sold and will go to Cardiff.

Plymouth Boat Trips The RONNOCH MOR was sold last year and is now at Rye Harbour in Sussex.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III made her first trip of the season as planned on 18 March.

Scilly Ferries The AREMITI 5 remains in Tahiti and Harland & Wolff now seem to want the Spanish AQUABUS JET 1, now laid up at Vilanova near Barcelona, but neither can be ready for 1 May when the service is advertised to start.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Ilfracombe Coastal Cruises The ILFRACOMBE PRINCESS will offer a 3-hour cruise on certain dates when very low tides are forecast; the first is on 7 April, and 12 more are planned this year.

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG was back at Sharpness from 8 February to 5 April and the start of her season, due on 26 March, has been delayed to 11 April owing to "an unexpected maintenance issue".

Matthew of Bristol The first harbour cruise of the season was on 2 April and the first Avon Gorge cruise is on 14 April.

Cardiff Cruises have bought the SHEPHERD LASS from Brixham.

WEST WALES

D W Evans, New Quay The new SUNCATCHER, a 15-metre catamaran from Blyth Catamarans, was delivered in March, arriving in Milford Haven on 21 March.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Newark Castle Line The SONNING will not run this season "due to MCA's recommendations of fixtures to the vessels". Built by Salters in 1902, she had run on the Trent from Newark since 1983.

NORTH WEST

Wyre Council The Knott End ferry was suspended from 29 January for the ferry's annual survey and work on the ferry dock, and resumed on 29 March.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANANNAN carried out trials at the new Liverpool terminal on 13 March.

MISCELLANY

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded £248 318 to the MV Balmoral Fund so that the ship can be dry docked.

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**May 2024**

It has been a difficult start to the season for many operators with continuing dull, wet weather. Rivers have been in flood, delaying the start of the season. Many people have less money to spend on leisure activities while boat operators face increasing costs. We must hope for some better weather soon.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The trip from Bideford is on 31 May, not the 30th as stated last month. Thames sailings, between 27 September and 13 October, can now be booked; they include Folkestone to London on 3 October, two sailings from Ipswich and one from Southwold. Timetables for the South Coast are still awaited. The WAVERLEY was at Greenock from 8 to 18 April for dry docking. She has been appointed by National Historic Ships UK as one of four "flagships of the year".

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

A & T Douglas, Seahouses Trips to land on Holy Island are on various dates from 6 May to 31 October.

W Shiel, Seahouses, have a similar programme of Holy Island trips.

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE returned from Hull after her refit on 13 April and her first trips of the season were on 4 May.

## EAST ANGLIA

'Viking Saga', Maldon The first trip of the season is on 26 May.

## THAMES

Thames River Sightseeing Calls at Tower Bridge Quay have ceased. From 19 April a temporary timetable has sailings from Westminster, Embankment, Festival and Bankside to Greenwich or for a non-landing cruise to the Tower. Later this month the boats will start calling at Butler's Wharf Pier, on the south bank just downstream of Tower Bridge.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The WIGHT SUN was back in Lymington on 17 April after nearly six weeks in Falmouth.

The Solent Steam Packet The SHIELDHALL was dry-docked in Falmouth between 18 and 24 April. She made her first cruises on 3 May.

Buckler's Hard River trips run daily from 29 March to 3 November.

Mudford Ferry The local council has ordered a new pontoon for the Mudford Beach landing stage so the ferry should be able to resume in June after a break of seven months.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The BARFLEUR made a trial call at St Peter Port on 24 April. The COMMODORE CLIPPER is being used by Brittany Ferries for a weekly freight sailing between Cherbourg and Rosslare and her first call at the Irish port was on 30 April.

Manche Iles Express This year the GRANVILLE runs alone from Granville, Carteret and Diélette, while the VICTOR HUGO is for sale.

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WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth The PRIDE OF EXMOUTH went to Polruan in Cornwall for her annual refit in April.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The PRINCESS MARINA will begin trips from Dawlish in June.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE's refit has been delayed and the cruise to Totnes on 2 June has had to be cancelled.

Torpoint Ferry The TAMAR II was taken out of service on 22 April and is now in dry dock in Falmouth for her five-yearly refit. It will return to service in June.

Mevagissey Ferries The season began on 26 April and runs to 3 October.

Scilly Ferries The AQUABUS JET 1 has been renamed ATLANTIC WOLFF and registered in the Pacific island territory of Tuvalu for her delivery voyage from Vilanova which began on 21 April. After calling at Algeciras and Lisbon, she reached the Portuguese port of Leixoes on 30 April and left there on 6 May for Santander. The service is now advertised to start on 1 June.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's first Lundy trip of the season was on 13 April. There is a Bideford-Ilfracombe coastal cruise on 13 May.

WEST WALES

D W Evans, New Quay The SUNCATCHER arrived in New Quay on 11 April and has begun running trips.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II began her season on 16 April.

NORTH WEST

Westmorland & Furness Council The Windermere ferry is suspended from 15 April to 24 May while the MALLARD has its 5-year survey.

Windermere Lake Cruises While the car ferry is out of action, a launch runs between Bowness and a new Ash Landing, with ten daily round trips connecting with buses to Hawkshead. Before the pandemic there was a service to Ferry House but that landing stage is no longer available.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE was at Birkenhead from 14 March to 12 April for dry docking, and has since made at least three round trip to Heysham.

MISCELLANY

The BALMORAL went into dry dock in Bristol on 17 April.

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**June 2024**

Fifty years ago, 1974 was a significant year for passenger ships. It was the last season for the BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN, the last Class III excursion ship on the south coast. In Scotland it was the final season for the magnificent KING GEORGE V at Oban while the WAVERLEY was laid up, awaiting the start of a new life with the PSPS in 1975. Elsewhere there was positive news with several new boats, including the DORSET BELLE (now DOLPHIN PRINCESS at Brixham), SOLENT SCENE (now at Poole) and SOUTHSEA QUEEN (now CRUISER on the Thames and Medway). Two new businesses which started in 1974 were Thames Rivercruise at Reading and Bristol Packet, both now offering a variety of boat trips and celebrating their 50th birthday this year.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions Timetables for sailings between 29 August and 13 September were published in May and include calls at Penzance, Falmouth, Plymouth, Dartmouth and by tender at Fowey. There are calls at Eastbourne on 12 September, the first since 2002. The WAVERLEY carried out trials on the Clyde between 8 and 11 May, and began her season on 17 May as scheduled. The only cancellations so far have been calls at Raasay and Portree, and Kyle of Lochalsh to Oban on 23 May, and her first ever cruise from Fishguard on 30 May, all because of weather conditions.

## EAST ANGLIA

Waveney River Tours, Oulton Broad The SOUTHERN BELLE, laid up since 2010, has been advertised for sale for £25 000.

## THAMES

Thames River Sightseeing Boats started calling at Butler's Wharf on 13 May. Sailings are now every half hour from Westminster via Embankment, Festival and Butler's Wharf to Greenwich.

Thames Cruises The ROYAL PRINCESS has been sold for use as a houseboat, and went to Chatham on 15 May. She was built by Rowhedge Ironworks in 1935 to run from Westminster to Kew and has been in London ever since.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink There are extra sailings on all routes between 20 and 27 June for the Isle of Wight Festival. On the Ryde route, a vessel chartered from Solent Cruises will make extra crossings on 20, 21 and 24 June.

Red Funnel Ferries have scheduled extra Red Jet sailings for the Festival. The RED JET 4 has been sold to Nam Hai Express in Korea. She was loaded aboard the Liberian-registered cargo ship AAL KOBE which left Southampton on 25 May.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey and Jersey have started a tendering process for ferry services to the UK and France. The contract period would be 15 years from 1 March 2025. Condor, backed by Brittany Ferries, and DFDS look to be contenders. Brittany Ferries' BRETAGNE made trial calls at St Helier on 28 May and at St Peter Port on 4 June.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Plymouth Boat Trips A new service between Royal William Yard and Saltash started on 24 May and will run until 30 September with six round trips daily by the ISLAND PRINCESS.

Scilly Ferries The ATLANTIC WOLFF completed her delivery voyage via Santander to arrive on 10 May in Portchester where she is being refitted. She was built in 2018 in Singapore and ran in the Philippines as the MAGALANG EXPRESS. She went to Spain in 2022 and ran intermittently between Ibiza and Formentera as the AQUABUS JET 1. She is 42.2 m long and could carry 410 passengers. She is now expected in service in late June. Passengers booked to travel this month are taken on the ATLANTIC EXPRESS, a 12-seater RIB with a cabin. Meanwhile the AREMITI 5, the vessel originally chosen and still depicted on Scilly Ferries' website, has returned to service between Tahiti and Moorea.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boats The commuter service from Netham Lock to the city centre runs daily from 3 June to September; at weekends there is no evening return to Netham.

NORTH WEST

E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon The QUEEN OF THE SEA is due to begin her season on 17 June.

Windermere Lake Cruises The new service between Bowness and Ash Landing, introduced to run while the car ferry was suspended, will continue daily until 3 November with a connecting minibus to Hawkshead.

Keswick Launch Co After being laid up for many years, the veteran IRIS, built in 1904, has gone to the Windermere Jetty Museum for preservation.

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July 2024

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Bristol Channel and North Wales sailings on 26 June. Sailings were disrupted by the weather on 4 and 15 June, and were cancelled on 20 and 21 June because of a steam windlass fault. Her return to the Clyde was delayed by a gale and she put into Belfast for fuel on 28 June while that day's sailing from Glasgow had to be cancelled.

## EAST ANGLIA

Topsail Charters, Maldon The owners plan to retire and have advertised the business for sale. Included are the sailing barges HYDROGEN and THISTLE, each carrying 50 passengers, and the boatyard at Maldon.

## THAMES

Capital Pleasure Boats will take over the PRIDE OF LONDON in September from Cruise London. Originally the PRIDE OF GREENWICH, then PRIDELA, she has been the PRIDE OF LONDON since 2009. She will be renamed GOLDEN SPIRIT.

Woods' Silver Fleet has bought the restaurant boat SYMPHONY from Bateaux London and will run her as the RIVERSCAPE from Tower Bridge Quay, marketed as Driftwoods. She was originally LE CRISTAL in Paris and came to London in 1997.

Colliers Launches The PRINCESS FREDA will, as usual, be going to Reading to run ferry services during the Reading Festival taking place between 23 and 26 August.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries is to have a new electric fast craft from Artemis Technologies for the Red Jet service to Cowes. It will carry 150 passengers at 34 knots and is due for delivery in late 2025.



Solent Cruises Mark Rayment, founder of the business, died on 25 June at the age of 77 after a short illness. The business is run by his son, Lee, and daughter, Alison.

'Coral Star', Yarmouth The new vessel from Blyth Catamarans is named KRAKEN and was launched on 21 June. She has since carried out trials in the Thames estuary.

Mudford Ferry resumed on 20 June after a break of seven months.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries The CONDOR ISLANDER struck the harbour wall at St Helier in the evening of 3 July and remained there overnight before sailing to Portsmouth by day, changing places with the COMMODORE CLIPPER.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth A new trip this year is a "Dawlish Round Robin" between Exmouth and Dawlish, sailing on the PRIDE OF EXMOUTH in one direction and returning by train. The first was on 29 June.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE's first trip of the season was on 18 June.

Park & Float Ferry, Falmouth The PRIDE OF FALMOUTH began running between the car park at Ponsharden and the Prince of Wales Pier in June. She was built in 1957 as the ADRIAN GILBERT and most recently ran in Tor Bay as the PRIDE OF PAIGNTON then PAIGNTON PRINCESS. The service is due to run daily until the end of September. Telephone mobile 07831 683027.

Scilly Ferries The ATLANTIC WOLFF is at Portsmouth awaiting completion of trials and certification. The service is now advertised to start on 19 July.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company Coastal cruises from Bideford to Ilfracombe are scheduled for 10 and 26 July, 12 and 23 August, and 9 September.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II will offer 30-minute trips in Sharpness on 13 and 14 July as part of celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the opening of Sharpness Dock.

NORTH WEST

E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon The QUEEN OF THE SEA began her season on 3 July.

Mersey Ferries Ferry crossings were suspended on 25 and 26 June as the SNOWDROP did Ship Canal cruises and the "Royal Iris" needed her certificates renewed. Services have been suspended since 2 July with both vessels out of service.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society The steamer suffered a mechanical fault after leaving Liverpool on 22 June and had to be towed to Ellesmere Port. Sailings on the 23rd and 24th were cancelled.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The first sailing from the new Liverpool terminal was on 25 June. It is 800 m downstream from the old terminal. The MANXMAN will offer a cruise round the island on the evening of 20 July.

MISCELLANY

The veteran KINGWOOD was towed to Erith for scrapping on 24 June. Built by Salters in 1915, she ran in London until 2013 and had been laid up since then.

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# TRIP OUT

**August 2024**

Electric boats have been in the news in many countries as operators try to cut carbon emissions. The technology is not new: there were electric launches on the upper Thames in the 19th century and on the Königssee in Bavaria all the passenger boats have been electric since 1909. In recent years sightseeing boats in Amsterdam and ferries in Norway have gone for electric power. In Britain, traditional passenger launches at Stratford-upon-Avon have been converted to electric drive and there are a few hybrid installations but we seem to be behind other countries. The Bristol Packet is the latest to convert a boat and perhaps others will follow. It would be good to go on boat trips with no noise or exhaust fumes.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY was off service from 25 to 29 July for repairs to the forward steam winch. Her Clyde programme continues until 25 August and her next trip is on 29 August from Falmouth to Penzance. Tickets are available for her sailings, except for Eastbourne on 12 September, Folkestone on 3 October and a few Thames sailings which are sold out.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Nexus Funding has been announced for a replacement landing stage in North Shields, at the Fish Quay further downstream. Total cost is £14.6 million.

## THAMES

Colliers Launches The PRINCESS FREDA will not go to Reading this year, seemingly because fewer people have booked tickets for the Reading Festival.

The River Boat Company is a new operator based at Henley and advertising charters from places between Oxford and Windsor. The PRINCESS MARINA has been leased from Thames Rivercruise and will be joined by the DEVON BELLE when her refit is complete.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Only three boats are active this season: the ALEXANDRA, CAVERSHAM LADY and CAVERSHAM PRINCESS.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The car ferry service was suspended on 15 July until 1400 because of a fault in the ramp at East Cowes. The RED EAGLE has been out of service since 1 August for repairs to a propeller and there is a reduced two-ship service to East Cowes until 9 August.

'Coral Star', Yarmouth The new catamaran KRAKEN was launched by Blyth Catamarans on 21 June. After trials in the Thames estuary, she sailed via Dover and Brighton to arrive in Yarmouth on 9 July, and has since made trial visits to Lymington and Cowes. There have been delays issuing a passenger certificate so the CORAL STAR continues to run. The service will operate as Quay2Quay.



(Picture from Blyth Catamarans)

WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross The PRINCESS MARINA began the season's trips from Dawlish on 16 July.

Scilly Ferries announced on 1 August that the company would be closed with the blame placed on Harland & Wolff's financial problems. The ATLANTIC WOLFF had sailed from Portsmouth to Newlyn on 17 July and carried out trials at Penzance on the 18th, then in St Mary's on the 20th; she remained in Newlyn until 6 August when she left for Ramsgate. The starting date of the service had been postponed several times and was latterly advertised for 20 August.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet The REDSHANK has been converted to electric drive with batteries but retains a diesel engine in case of problems. The TOWER BELLE is next in line for conversion to electric drive.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester Because of staff holidays the QUEEN BOADICA II will not do any trips between 11 and 27 August, except that trips will run on 15 and 24 August.

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[www.trip-out.co.uk](http://www.trip-out.co.uk) © G P Hamer 6 August 2024

# TRIP OUT

**September 2024**

As summer turns to autumn, this season could be the last for some passenger boats. New regulations take effect at the first annual survey after 28 December. Some traditional boats will be unable to meet additional stability rules while other requirements will be too expensive for owners, especially as this season has not been a good one.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Clyde season on 25 August and left Largs that evening for Falmouth, arriving 41 hours later on the 27th. She completed her sailings in Cornwall and south Devon, meeting the KINGSWEAR CASTLE at Dartmouth on 31 August. She is on the south coast until 25 September then moves to the Thames.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours The JACOB MARLEY has been advertised for sale by brokers for £260 000. She had run on the Medway and Thames since 2016 but was replaced by the CRUISER last year then spent the winter doing the Gravesend-Tilbury ferry until that closed on 31 March. The CRUISER's sailings from Queenborough and Southend are scheduled to continue to 27 October, and there are also sailings from Chatham on 21 and 22 September.

Havengore, London The HAVENGORE is now owned by Gardner Marine Ltd and is based at Ramsgate.

Thames Clippers The new hybrid MARS CLIPPER sailed from Cowes to London via Dover on 6 August and is now in service with her sisters CELESTIAL CLIPPER and EARTH CLIPPER.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED EAGLE suffered a propeller fault on 3 September and has since been out of service.

Hythe and Southampton Ferry Company The service has been suspended since 22 August because of repairs needed to Hythe Pier.

Quay2Quay ('Coral Star'), Yarmouth The KRAKEN has still been unable to start running so the CORAL STAR provides some sailings from Yarmouth and Lymington as in the past.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries Brittany Ferries is to increase its shareholding to 51% thus gaining control of Condor. The COMMODORE CLIPPER arrived in Santander on 4 September for a refit; she is due to resume sailing from Portsmouth on 24 October.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Paignton Pleasure Cruises The RIVIERA PRINCESS, out of use since the pandemic, was broken up this year. She was built in 1947 as the LADY JANE RITCHIE and was used on a Gourock-Kilcreggan service on the Clyde.

Funfish Trips, Brixham The BRIXHAM BELLE has remained laid-up this year.

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Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The DART VENTURER and DITTISHAM PRINCESS have been based at Torquay to run the Western Lady Ferry Service as in recent years. The DART EXPLORER goes to Torquay on some days to do the day trip to Dartmouth. The CARDIFF CASTLE goes to Totnes while the DARTMOUTH CASTLE is laid up and for sale.

Plymouth Boat Trips The service between Royal William Yard and Saltash will continue at weekends in October then daily from 28 October to 3 November.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III had a mechanical problem when returning to Penzance on 31 August and ran on reduced power with crossings taking 3½ hours or more until 3 September. A modified timetable continues until 6 September and day return bookings are cancelled.

Scilly Ferries After leaving Newlyn on 6 August, the ATLANTIC WOLFF sailed via Ramsgate to Den Helder in the Netherlands, arriving there the next day. She is still laid-up there.

#### NORTH WEST

'Judith Mary II', Whaley Bridge The owners are retiring after 40 years and the last trip will be on 20 December. The JUDITH MARY II has been bought by Georgie's Canal Cruises and will run on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal from Teddesley.

Coniston Launch Trips run daily until 24 November then at weekends until daily services resume on 1 February.

Windermere Lake Cruises Services from Bowness, Brockhole, Ambleside and Lakeside will be daily (except 25 December) this winter, but between 6 January and 7 February Lakeside is only served at weekends.

Keswick Launch Co Trips are daily until 17 November then on 23-24 November, 8-9 February, then daily from 15 February to 2 March and from 8 March.

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The jetty at Coniston is closed for repairs this month and the GONDOLA is doing only a daily cruise of an hour and 40 minutes leaving from Brantwood at 1700.

Ullswater 'Steamers' The winter timetable, from 27 October, has three sailings from Glenridding each day.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN struck the quay at Heysham on 21 August. Repairs to the ship were completed within 24 hours but the berth was damaged and the ships used an alternative berth in Heysham with resulting delays. The BEN-MY-CHREE and freight ferry ARROW were both activated to cope with traffic. The MANXMAN will offer a 3½-hour afternoon cruise from Douglas on 15 September to mark her first year in service. From 9 November, the MANXMAN's daytime sailings will go to Liverpool instead of Heysham at weekends.

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# TRIP OUT

**October 2024**

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Waverley Excursions On 10 September the weather prevented the WAVERLEY from going round the Isle of Wight and she returned to Southampton in the evening instead of Poole. She started from Swanage the next morning and later calls at Yarmouth were cancelled. Calls at Ryde were cancelled after the 17th and Portsmouth Harbour was also unavailable so she used Portsmouth International Port. She completed the south coast sailings at Portsmouth on 25 September and left for Ipswich but the starboard paddle wheel was damaged off the Isle of Wight and she was towed back to Portsmouth. After repairs she left on 28 September and arrived in Gravesend the next morning. Sailings on 27-29 September were cancelled but she was able to offer the evening sailing from Gravesend to London on the 29th, advertised at short notice at a fare of £1. Sea conditions prevented her sailing from Folkestone on 3 October. There was further paddle trouble when she arrived at Whitstable from London on 7 October; she went to Gravesend without passengers and the next day's sailing was cancelled.

## THAMES

Capital Pleasure Boats The PRIDE OF LONDON was handed over from Cruise London on 9 September.

Thames River Boats Sailings from Westminster to Kew run until 27 October, and continue to Richmond and Hampton Court on 16-19 October.

Turk Launches Trips between Kingston and Hampton Court run at weekends in October and daily from 28 October to 3 November. The NEW SOUTHERN BELLE is to be sold and only the RICHMOND ROYALE and YARMOUTH BELLE will run next year.

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice In addition to the year-round service between Little Venice and Camden, there are now cruises from Camden in the ALFRED LEROY with a bar, lasting an hour and 10 minutes and scheduled until 30 November.

Hobbs of Henley THE NEW ORLEANS is being offered for sale by brokers for £500 000.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED EAGLE was out of service for ten days until 13 September. The winter timetable, from 5 November to 26 March, as usual has car ferry sailings every 1½ hours.

Hythe and Southampton Ferry Company The ferry remains suspended but the HYTHE SCENE offered 30-minute trips from Southampton with live music on 28 September as part of the "Music in the City" festival.

Quay2Quay ('Coral Star'), Yarmouth The CORAL STAR's season has ended and the KRAKEN has been unable to start running because "The Yarmouth Harbour Master is the stumbling block, he has been doing risk assessments since February."

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

The Newhaven-Dieppe ferry SEVEN SISTERS made trial calls at St Helier and St Peter Port on 3 October.

Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER left Santander on 29 September after dry-docking and went to Poole to complete her refit. Brittany Ferries' BARFLEUR made an extra sailing from Portsmouth to Jersey on 3 October.

Manche Iles Express The VICTOR HUGO has been sold to Karu'Ferry of Guadeloupe in the Caribbean and renamed GUY TIROLIEN. Originally the SALTEN in Norway, she became the VICTOR HUGO in 2003 and ran to the Channel Islands for 21 years but was laid up this year.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Next year's Exeter Canal cruises will be on 21 May, 4 and 20 June, 4 July, 16 September and 1 October.

Funfish Trips, Brixham Wildlife cruises continue on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays until 31 October.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co Services continue to 31 October. There is an evening cruise to see the Salcombe "Field of Light" on 17 and 31 October and these are also planned on 15 November and 2 December.

Plymouth Boat Trips Harbour cruises are daily until 3 November then run on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The 2025 season begins on 17 March.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company Next year the OLDENBURG will run from 1 April to 24 October.

Bristol Ferry Boats The waterbus service runs from Thursdays to Sundays until 20 October then at weekends until 9 March, and daily in School holidays.

Cardiff Cruises Bay trips run at weekends until 19 January and again from 22 February, then daily from 1 March.

#### NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries Next year's cruises into the Manchester Ship Canal are on eight dates from 19 May to 29 September. There will also be eight afternoon cruises into Liverpool Bay from 3 June to 17 August.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN went to Birkenhead for refit on 30 September. The BEN-MY-CHREE will run to Heysham until 18 October.

#### MISCELLANY

The naturalist and TV presenter Tony Soper died on 18 September at the age of 95. Between 1972 and 1976 he owned the SCOMBER (ex SEYMOUR CASTLE) and ran bird-watching cruises from Dartmouth and Plymouth. The boat later became the DEVON BELLE at Reading.

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# TRIP OUT

**November 2024**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY's sailings on 8 and 9 October were cancelled for repairs after her paddle trouble on the 7th. She completed Thames sailings on 11-13 October then left for Glasgow, arriving on the 16th after stops for fuel at Gravesend and Fishguard. Her final public sailings were on 19 and 20 October and she was then chartered for a film for two days before being laid-up in Glasgow. She had sailed on 125 days and carried 159 572 passengers. Winter maintenance is expected to cost £1 million. The 2025 season will begin on 16 May and she will visit Oban, Kyle of Lochalsh and Portree between 19 and 27 May then go to North Wales and the Bristol Channel. The rest of the season will follow the usual pattern. Vouchers that can be exchanged for a ticket for any sailing in 2025 are on sale for £49.50 until 28 February 2025.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Nexus A new timetable from 4 November has no evening crossings because of a shortage of crew; the last crossing is at 1800 from North Shields.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours An afternoon tea cruise from Chatham was scheduled for 31 October. This could be the last trip from Chatham's Sun Pier as a new pier is due to open in Rochester.

City Cruises Winter sailings are every 40 minutes.

Thames River Sightseeing Winter sailings are also every 40 minutes as usual.

Thames Cruises The VISCOUNTESS has been sold for static use and left Lambeth on 24 October. She was built by Salters in 1926 as the last of a series of steamboats for Joseph Mears' fleet and had spent all her life in London.

Turk Launches The NEW SOUTHERN BELLE has been offered for sale for £59 997 and seems likely to become a houseboat. Next year's public trips will be between Kingston and Hampton Court only, and will no longer go to Richmond.

## SOUTH COAST

City Cruises, Poole On 21 October the Poole business was taken over by a new company, Coastal Cruises Poole Ltd, owned by Carol Scott who was City Cruises' manager at Poole. The business had been owned by City Cruises since 2014. The new company owns the ISLAND SCENE, RIVER ESCAPES FORTUNA and SOLENT SCENE. The "FORTUNA" is being refitted at Portchester. The SOLENT SCENE continued Jurassic Coast cruises until 31 October and harbour cruises will run this winter. Telephone mobile 07483 038487.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The ferry is closed for a refit from 5 to 20 November.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

On 30 October the States of Guernsey announced that its preferred bidder for shipping services is Brittany Ferries, owner of Condor Ferries, rather than rival DFDS. Jersey has yet to announce a decision.

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Condor Ferries The COMMODORE CLIPPER replaced the freight ferry COMMODORE GOODWILL from 6 October, then went for her own refit, arriving in Dunkerque on 29 October. She is due to return to service on 9 January.

Manche Iles Express Jersey, Guernsey and Sark are to provide a subsidy of £309 600 to keep the service running next year. The VICTOR HUGO left Granville on 15 October and is being refitted at Cherbourg before going to Guadeloupe as the GUY TIROLIEN.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Cruises from Dartmouth are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays this winter.

Plymouth Boat Trips A three-hour bird-watching cruise is scheduled for 30 November and five other dates this winter. The slipway at Cremyll needs repairs and the ferry service was suspended on 24 October, then resumed on the 26th, landing passengers at the quay at high water or on the foreshore. The new service to Saltash has been a success and will run next year.

#### NORTH WEST

Mersey Ferries Work has started on replacing the Woodside landing stage which has been closed since October 2022.

Liverpool Boat Tour bought the ST CUTHBERT II from Seahouses in 2023. After two seasons based in the Albert Dock, she is for sale for £35 000 and is apparently to be replaced.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society The last trip of the season, from the river Weaver to Liverpool on 7 October, was cancelled because of a problem with Weston Marsh lock. The trip was postponed to 18 October.

Ullswater 'Steamers' Additional sailings ran between 28 October and 3 November for the school holiday instead of the winter service originally advertised.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN made trial calls at the new Liverpool terminal on 15-17 October before returning to service from Douglas to Heysham on the 18th. The BEN-MY-CHREE went to Liverpool on 28 October to test the new terminal. As a result of these trials there have been some changes to the times of the MANXMAN's weekend Liverpool sailings as there are problems at some states of tide. The BEN-MY-CHREE made trial calls at Troon and Brodick on 31 October for a possible charter to Caledonian MacBrayne but it seems these were not successful.

#### MISCELLANY

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded £10 million for the restoration of the derelict Birnbeck Pier at Weston-super-Mare. The steamer landing stage, last used in 1979 by the BALMORAL, will not be restored.

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# TRIP OUT

**December 2024**

Ferry services to the Channel Islands have seen many changes over the years, with different operators and mainland ports, but ships have always served both Guernsey and Jersey. Next year Brittany Ferries will serve Guernsey while DFDS will go to Jersey. It's hard to see why DFDS wants to get involved when they have no previous experience in the Channel Islands. There is plainly not enough traffic for two separate services and, sooner or later, they will have to work together.

On a personal matter, I will not be using a PO Box address after this year, so correspondence should go to the address below.

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

Geoffrey Hamer, 75 Burket Close, Southall, UB2 5NT

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## THAMES

City Cruises will offer 1-hour cruises from Westminster on Christmas Day at a fare of £30.

Woods' Silver Fleet have ordered a 250-passenger electric sightseeing boat from Pendennis Shipyard in Falmouth. The THAMES EXPLORER will do 40-minute trips from Tower Bridge Quay.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST FAITH was dry-docked in Falmouth between 28 November and 4 December.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON arrived in Falmouth on 6 November.

Hythe and Southampton Ferry Company The ferry is still suspended but the HYTHE SCENE will offer two 45-minute cruises from Southampton on 8 December with live music.

Coastal Cruises Poole Harbour cruises are now scheduled to run daily except Mondays and Fridays at 1130, 1300 and 1430 until 24 December then from 15 February to 31 March. Daily harbour cruises and trips to Swanage resume on 1 April.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Co The ferry resumed on the afternoon of 21 November after being refitted afloat in Poole.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Jersey announced on 3 December that it had chosen DFDS to provide ferry services for 15 years from 28 March 2025. Two ships and two fast ferries will serve Jersey from Portsmouth, Poole and St-Malo, but more detail is awaited.

Condor Ferries will in future trade under the Brittany Ferries name. The contract to provide ferries to Guernsey was signed on 4 December and will run for 15 years from 28 March 2025. Next summer the CONDOR VOYAGER will be based at St-Malo and run to Guernsey and Poole most days with a weekly sailing from St-Malo to Guernsey and Jersey. The CONDOR ISLANDER will run from Portsmouth to Guernsey overnight, returning by day except on Saturdays when there will be a round trip from Guernsey to St-Malo, returning overnight to Portsmouth. The COMMODORE CLIPPER is sailing for Brittany Ferries until 5 January from Portsmouth to Le Havre or Cherbourg and from Cherbourg to Rosslare.

Manche Iles Express carried about 60 000 passengers this year, 13% more than in 2023 even though the VICTOR HUGO was laid up.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Coastal trips resume in May, visiting Brixham for the pirate festival on the 3rd and 5th. The first trip to Sidmouth is on 7 May and Thursday day trips to Torquay and Brixham are from 15 May to 25 September. Specials include the Riviera Air Show in Tor Bay on 31 May and 1 June, "geology" day cruises on 19 May and 12 September, cruises to Countess Wear on 27 May, 23 August and 7 September, and Dartmouth Regatta on 30 August.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The PRINCESS MARINA was badly damaged by fire on 27 November whilst moored at a buoy off Starcross.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III made her last trip of the season 10 November as scheduled. Next year she sails from 17 March to 31 October, sailing daily except Sundays from 24 March to 11 October and on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the beginning and end of the season. Sunday sailings are from 6 July to 14 September. There are double sailings on 1, 5 and 31 May, and on Saturdays from 19 July to 30 August.

Scilly Ferries Harland & Wolff (Scilly Ferries) Ltd is being liquidated with total debts of over £3 million. The ATLANTIC WOLFF which was leased is laid up in the Netherlands.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG went from Bideford via Lundy to Sharpness on 7 November for dry-docking.

WEST WALES

Dale Sailing Company, Marloes The DALE PRINCE, a sister of the DALE QUEEN, is being completed by Blyth Catamarans in Essex.

D W Evans, New Quay After her first season, the SUNCATCHER went to Pwllheli on 6 November for refit.

NORTH WEST

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society The DANIEL ADAMSON was dry-docked by Cammell Laird at Birkenhead in November.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co There are Belfast sailings on 22 and 29 December. Next year Belfast sailings are from 3 April to 30 August and Dublin sailings are on 9 April then from 25 May to 27 August. The MANANNAN went to Cammell Laird on 27 November for refit; next year she runs from 28 March to 26 October.

MISCELLANY

The former Mersey ferry ROYAL DAFFODIL has completed her conversion to a bar and restaurant in Garston Dock. Now named DAFFODIL, she was towed to Canning Dock in Liverpool on 18 November and is due to open on 9 December.

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