

Since the 2013 season ended, we have been reviewing all aspects of the operation of Waverley, from the product, both sailing and onboard offerings, through to customer service.

The summer weather was good and we experienced the best passenger numbers in July since 1994! The weather in the Bristol Channel in June was not so good, the wind also blew when Waverley was on the South Coast and the cancellations as a result of this meant that the benefit of July's good weather was quickly negated.



Still, we are in a better position than the previous two years and our efforts to promote a funding partnership with the Clyde councils are beginning to pay dividends.

The 2014 timetable is almost complete and as a Friends of Waverley member – you can preview this on our website! The Friends of Waverley scheme has been running for two summers now. Whilst it has offered you the chance to save on sailing, it has not proved to be a success.

The scheme was based on a model operated by other charitable attractions. The key to its success was deemed to be the number of members, initial targets were in the region of 5,000 sailing members – and despite best efforts of a dedicated salesperson in 2013, we have not got close to that level.

FOW Relaunched

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The scheme has been reviewed and is now being re-launched to deliver benefits for everyone.

Memberships will now operate on a calendar year basis, i.e. from January to December. Memberships can be renewed before March 31st so that you are ready for the start of the season. All memberships taken out during 2013 will be honoured until their expiry date.

We will still offer you savings, and have introduced 3 categories to suit all levels of travellers whether regular or occasional. The Sailing memberships and Sailing Vouchers are available exclusively to those purchasing a 2014 membership.

The sailing memberships are a reintroduction of Commodore Tickets, and are designed for regular travelers and offer unlimited sailing aboard Waverley during 2014 in an area of your choice. A guaranteed place aboard every sailing and no need to queue at the purser's office for

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tickets! It includes all shore excursions & coach returns as well as £10 of vouchers to spend onboard Waverley.

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the famous purchase of Waverley for £1 in 1974, those buying Sailing Memberships can add a child onto the membership for just £40!

The book of sailing vouchers is aimed at the more occasional passenger and offers 10 vouchers which can be exchanged for any public sailing aboard Waverley and includes £10 of vouchers to spend onboard. These tickets are transferable so you can bring friends and family along.

Discount Cruising Vouchers are for those who only manage to sail a few times each year, offering a discount of 40%!

We are looking at ways to improve your experience and we are planning to make some changes to the catering and services offered onboard. We are always pleased to hear from you and you can contact us at friends@waverleyexcursions.co.uk.

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The team at Waverley are committed to supporting the charity's aims and to protecting your investment in the ship, and we trust you will support the efforts to keep Waverley sailing. Renew your membership by March 31st and you will receive an exclusive car sticker.

We hope that you will find the right discount scheme for you and we look forward to welcoming you onboard in 2014.

On behalf of the Officers, Crew and staff at Waverley, I thank you for your continued support in helping to preserve an important part of the world's maritime heritage for present and future generations to enjoy.

Best Wishes for Christmas & the New Year

Kathleen O'Neill -Chief Executive

Make a Difference

by Volunteering

Paddle Steamer Waverley is a national treasure, lovingly cared for by a team of professionals and volunteers. From the earliest days of Waverley's preservation, volunteers have played a key role in ensuring the continued operation of the ship. There are a number of ways in which you can contribute, both ashore and afloat and there are opportunities for people from all walks of life which will help the Waverley Charity fulfil its objectives. If you have the time we can put your skills to good use!

We need your help with:

- WINTER MAINTENANCE: Engineers, Electricians, Plumbers, Joiners etc
- PIER HOSTING: Meet & greet passengers
- DISTRIBUTION: Deliver publicity material in your local area

Volunteering aboard Waverley allows you to meet new friends, gain self confidence and be a part of your community. It can be a rewarding way to spend your free time or retirement. It can also be an exciting chance to develop existing skills and gain new ones; for some it can be a great opportunity to add experience to CVs and future job applications.

To register your interest in volunteering please email contact details, area and skill to volunteers@waverleyexcursions.co.uk.

For many years Elsie Hinshalwood from Largs has been a volunteer helping to attract passengers aboard Waverley by distributing posters around Largs. She has now retired from this role and as a thank you for her contribution Waverley's Captain Andy O'Brian presented her with flowers at Largs Pier.



Our run South from the Clyde to Weymouth was a pleasant one

Captain's Blog South Coast & The Thames





Driving a Paddle Steamer in the 21st Century

Our run South from the Clyde to Weymouth was a pleasant one with only thick fog during the last leg from Start Point slowing us down. At one point we passed a 349m Container Ship giving us a huge radar target.... but we couldn't see her!

The South Coast began with Relief Chief Officer Robin Wall joining for the duration of our stay, meaning he and I sailing again together in these now familiar waters.

We had assistance as ever from our friends at Wightlink, ABP Southampton, QHM Portsmouth and all the other Ports along the Solent. A special thank-you to Serco at the Naval Base in Portsmouth who stepped in to supply our tug replacing the Butcher's tugs we have used for so many years.

In this my 6th year as Master of Waverley on

the South Coast, it is now a case of meeting old friends at the resorts of Bournemouth, Swanage and Weymouth and with the ship looking good and running well only our old adversary the weather could get between us and our target of a perfect South Coast with no cancellations! This duly came to pass, with truly awful weather over one of the weekends which causing us to cancel some sailings including our proposed Worthing call on the Monday too.

After the South Coast came my first spell as Master of Waverley on the Thames. Once again my personal thanks go to all the ports and agencies in this district for the superb co-operation and assistance we received in the execution of our timetable. The PLA staff & Pilots, Tug Master, various Pier Masters, Tower Bridge and LRS staff could not do enough to help and I found myself enjoying the London River trips far more than I had expected to.

MEMBERSHIP FAQs

HOW DO I RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP?

You can renew your membership online or by calling 0845 130 4647. Please renew before March 31st. If you are a new member taking out a sailing membership in 2014 then you will need to provide a photograph.

DO I NEED TO BOOK?

We have availability on most trips so it is not necessary to book in advance. If it is a sunny weekend then we would advise booking.

CAN I BUY A JOINT TICKET?

If you wish to buy a joint sailing membership, email friends@waverleyexcursions.co.uk or call 0845 130 4647 for a price.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY MEMBERSHIP CARD? 2014 memberships and discount sailing offers will be issued from January 2014 onwards.

MY MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES IN 2014 -WHAT DO I DO?

Your current membership will be honoured until its expiry date. If you wish to take advantage of any of the discount schemes after the expiry date, you should renew your membership for 2014 and then choose the discount scheme that is right for you.

>> READ ALL BLOGS ONLINE AT WWW.WAVERLEYEXCURSIONS.CO.UK

The experience of Sailing under Tower Bridge at night to enter the Upper Pool never loses its magic!

My memory also served me better than I thought as I re-visited Ports I had not seen since I was Mate with Captain Steve Colledge back in 2006 and it was also good to put names to faces....meeting people for the first time, having spoken to them regarding timetable planning every year since becoming Senior Master.

A particular highlight of the South Coast and Thames were our two "Scott Suppers" when we entertained many old and new friends and a host of dignitaries and some colourful characters.

The setting of Tower Pier with The Tower of London, a floodlit Tower Bridge and HMS BELFAST as our backdrop is pretty hard to beat in any inner city berth!

Captain Andy O'Brian - Senior Master

Souvenirs

Looking for inspiration for Christmas presents?

Gift Vouchers

Introduce a friend to the pleasures of sailing aboard the world's last sea-going paddle steamer. Presented in a Waverley Gift Card. Gift Vouchers come in denominations of £5, £10, £20 & £50 and can be redeemed against any sailing or used onboard Waverley at the bars, restaurant & souvenir shop.

Official Waverley Calendar

The Official Waverley Calendar includes on its inside front cover an historic shot of Waverley and Balmoral, together in Garvel Dry Dock Greenock for the first time ever.

The 2014 edition follows the Waverley on a trip from Campbeltown via the Mull of Kintyre to the isles of Skye, Staffa, Tiree and Coll with a visit to Brodick before returning to the Clyde.



Last Chance to Buy!

Lifeboat Oars

Don't miss the chance to buy a reminder of your great days out aboard Waverley in 2013. Limited edition clothing is available to buy online and mugs are available to buy from Waverley Terminal in Glasgow. Visit the online shop to pick up a bargain!

These wooden oars were recovered from

various states of repair, but generally good. For

Waverley when the Aft Lifeboats were

collection from our Glasgow Office.

1 x steering oar at 3.4m long (11 Ft)

1 x steering oar at 4.25m long (14 Ft)

Each Oar £65, Two Oars or More £50 Each

6 x at 3m long (10 Ft)

4 x at 3.6m long (12 Ft)

Own a Piece of History

Original Waverley Artefacts

Anchor

Waverley's original 1946 anchor has been replaced this year, meaning there is now a unique opportunity for you to own a piece of Waverley's history. It would make an ideal focal point for your garden and an interesting conversation piece!

A certificate of authenticity will be issued with the anchor.

Bids for the Anchor can be made to info@ waverleyexcursions.co.uk

Lifeboat Emergency Radios

Each radio has the ship's call-sign marked and present. In good condition, and operational. 1 x SKANT MARINETTA LIFEBOAT RADIO. TYPE - TRP 1. SER NO - 11000 1 x CLIFFORD AND SNELL EMERGENCY RADIO. TYPE - 710. SER NO - 1199 Each Radio £150

NEXT ISSUE:

EMAIL ADDRESSES

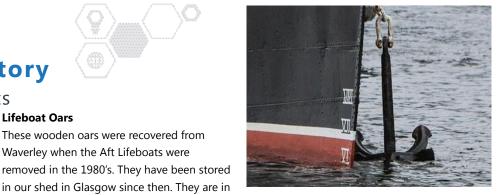
Your newsletter will be delivered by email in the future. Please ensure that you register your email address with the company to ensure you receive the latest news.

BECOME A REPORTER

We want to hear from you. What does Waverley to mean to you? Tell us all about your favourite trip onboard and send your favourite photograph and you might see yourself in print in the next issue!

PHOTO COMPETITION

Waverley Excursions will be producing its very own calendar for 2015. We are looking for fantastic shots of the ship in all areas of the country. Competition entries will be featured in the next issue of The Funnel and If your photograph gets used in the calendar, you will win a VIP day for 2 people on board tWaverely and a copy of the calendar signed by the Captain!



>> For more information and photographs email info@waverleyexcursions.co.uk or call 0845 130 4647

Bespoke Light Fittings

These bespoke light fittings were made for Waverley at the Millennium Rebuild. They were made of glass, and found to be too heavy and were replaced by plastic. They are in excellent condition. With metal base but no internal lamp fitting.

10 at 340mm (13") Dia x 200mm (8") Deep Bespoke Glass Light Each £150



Your membership is an important strand in the strategy of communicating the Waverley message to government officials, business and the community at large. The more members we have the stronger our argument is that the ship should be supported as a national icon. Thank you for supporting us in this way. We hope you will encourage family, friends and colleagues to join Friends of Waverley. The Directors, Staff, Officers and Crew will all strive to continue to provide you with Great Days Out aboard Waverley. Kathleen O'Neill, Chief Executive - Waverley Excursions Ltd.

What's in store for you in 2014?

2014 is the 40th Anniversary of the famous purchase of Waverley for £1 and the start of her life in operational preservation.

In 2014, Scotland welcomes the world to join in the Year of Homecoming and Glasgow is hosting the Commonwealth Games!

Waverley will begin her season on the last Bank Holiday weekend in May. Unusually she will sail on the Clyde for this weekend and then make her annual sail round the Mull of Kintyre to Oban to position for her Western Isles programme. She will visit Skye, with a return to Portree, Kyle of Lochalsh, Gairloch and Raasay, along with her traditional weekend sailings out of Oban. You may notice that Fort William pier does not feature this year as there are problems with the fendering. If you want to enjoy all these sailings - you can purchase a special ticket to cover them all.



Waverley returns to Portree in 2014

Waverley's main summer season will kick off on Sunday June 22nd with a trip to Tarbert following the 'Royal Route to the Isles'. The Commonwealth Games take place between July 23rd and August 2nd, and plans for events at Pacific Quay have not yet been finalised so these dates may change as opportunities present themselves. There is a special weekend of sailings planned from Largs on August 2nd and 3rd which will see Waverley sail to Ireland and a welcome return to Ardrishaig!



Iona & Columba at Ardrishaig Pier Waverley was made very welcome in Liverpool last year and we will be returning to the Cruise Terminal for two days at the end of August. Llandudno Pier has, at long last, been completed and we are looking forward to being part of the opening celebrations.



Repairs finished at Llandudno

Waverley's journey South will include a 10 day programme on the Bristol Channel and you will be able to step aboard in Penarth, Clevedon, Swansea, Porthcawl & Minehad for sailings to Ilfracombe and Lundy Island amongst others.



To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Waverley in preservation, we are turning back the clock onboard and will be offering table service in the Dining Saloon as a trial during the Spring programme and, if successful, will be rolling this out for the rest of the season. You will be able make dinner reservations online in advance and onboard the ship. Traditional afternoon tea will also be offered on a number of sailings.

Online booking is coming soon, but in the meantime if you want to book for a sailing please call 0845 130 4647. Prices are held at last year's fares until March 31st!



Waverley Academy Graduates

Officer Cadets

Some of you may remember the Officer Cadets onboard Waverley during the 2012 season. Their time onboard enabled them to gain valuable sea time and experience which helped them progress to the next stage of their cadetships.

We are delighted that both Cheryl Skinner and Samantha Simpson have now passed their Officer of the Watch (Deck) exams and are now both fully qualified to sail up to the rank of 2nd Officer (navigator) on any ship in the world - including, we hope, Waverley!

Congratulations from the Master, Officers and Crew of Waverley.



Making Friends aboard Waverley

As part of our strategy to raise Waverley's profile and to build relationships with the public and private sector, a series of dinners were planned around the country.

As Waverley takes her name from Edward Waverley, the character in Sir Walter Scott's novels, we have adopted Scott as the patron of our dinners in preference to Burns....hence "Scott Suppers"

We were honoured to welcome a host of special guests onboard at various ports throughout the year and gold chains were the order of the day as we welcomed civic leaders, MP's and MSP's aboard.

In February, Scottish Labour Party Leader, Johann Lamont, and MSP's Neill Bibby and Drew Smith were entertained at the 1st Annual Scott Supper In Glasgow.



Tom Harris MP was amongst the guests who enjoyed a cocktail night on the Clyde in the early season.







Provost Joan Sturgeon, Margaret Burgess MSP were aboard on a sunny summer night in Largs and we were delighted to be able to say thank you to Chris Weir for her contribution to keeping Waverley sailing. John Scott MSP for Ayr joined us along with a host of business leaders for dinner in Ayr.



We were pleased to have the services of the Paisley, Glasgow & Ayr Sea Cadet Units in a hospitality role at all our Scottish events.

We welcomed Mayors and Mayoresses from both sides of the Bristol Channel on a cruise around the Holm Islands while the Ship was based there, along with our friends from The Bristol Port Company, Bristol Pilots and ABP South Wales. Civic Leaders from Southampton, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Isle of Wight and Sussex County Council came aboard in Southampton, while the Mayor & Mayoresses of Southwark, Essex, Harwich & Thurrock were aboard one evening as Waverley lay at Tower Pier in the Pool of London.



The ship's officers took on a new role during these events, acting as representatives of the company on tours of the ship and hosting tables and our Catering crew pulled out all the stops to ensure a high class dining experience was provided. The events were self funding by raffles on the night.

We have made a lot of new friends this year and will continue to build on these relationships for the benefit of Waverley.

