



6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

THE QUEEN'S ROWBARGE

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Announcing the first 'Gloriana Achievers' Day'  
7th October 2016, Royal Docks Adventure – London's Royal Docks.**

*'#GloRoWin'*

The Gloriana Achievers' Day will be an annual event to reward schools that have achieved a real turnaround in their results during the previous academic year, with the ultimate prize of a crew from the winning schools rowing Gloriana, The Queen's Rowbarge.

This first year, it will reward two Academies in the riparian boroughs around London, which have achieved a tremendous turnaround in their pupils' results. It will be an educational, yet fun-filled day to reward the pupils who have worked so hard, and it will play a key role in introducing these youngsters to the sport of rowing.

The Gloriana Trust (see Notes for Editors) is coming together with British Rowing, Royal Docks Adventure, Skerries 4 Schools, London Youth Rowing, Port of London Authority, Thames Skills Academy and Shadwell Activity Centre, to deliver this event on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The first two schools to be selected are from Harris Federation Academies, as they have recently been recognised as a 'top performer' in primary and secondary education by the Department of Education, and their success has been highlighted in four separate sets of independent research (see Notes for Editors attached).

Within the Harris Federation, two of the Academies that have shown the greatest improvement in the last academic year are Chobham Academy, Stratford and Harris Academy Chafford Hundred, Grays.

80+ youngsters from these Harris Federation Academies will come to the Royal Docks Adventure, Royal Albert Dock, London, on 7th October 2016 where they'll be welcomed by Malcolm Knight, well known River Thames record holder, who is managing the event, and many top UK oarsmen.

They will spend the morning being taught how to row and then take part in The Gloriana Achievers' Regatta. The overall winning Academy will be awarded the splendid 'Gloriana Achievers' Blade' and the top two crews will go on to row 'Gloriana' in the Achievers' Day flotilla, with all participants receiving a 'Gloriana Achievers' Day' scroll.

Lord Sterling, Chairman of The Gloriana Trust, said, 'Sir Steve Redgrave and I have wanted to develop The Gloriana Achievers' Day concept for some years, and we are delighted that it is now going to happen. It gives all of us involved with Gloriana great pleasure to offer these youngsters, who have achieved so much at their Academies, the opportunity to get out on to the River Thames and discover the fun and team spirit of rowing for the first time. This embodies the spirit of why Gloriana was built'.



## THE QUEEN'S ROWBARGE

Lord Harris, Chairman of The Harris Federation, said, 'I am delighted that our Harris Academies are taking part in this very first Gloriana Achievers' Day, where so many of our pupils will be able to meet and learn from some of Britain's best sportsmen and women, and the final winners will, I'm sure, feel great pride in having crewed HM The Queen's Rowbarge.'

Sir Daniel Moynihan, Chief Executive of the Harris Federation, said, 'Our pupils and teachers have worked extremely hard to achieve their impressive results, so we are thrilled to be able to offer them such a wonderful reward'.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact:

Lord Sterling, Chairman, The Gloriana Trust 0207 647 8522 ([www.glorianaqrb.org.uk](http://www.glorianaqrb.org.uk)).

Event on 7<sup>th</sup> October will take place at Royal Docks Adventure ([www.royaldocksadventure.org](http://www.royaldocksadventure.org)), Royal Albert Dock, 1012 Dockside Road, London E16 2QT. Plenty of free parking on site, opposite 'Albert Dock' DLR station.



## THE QUEEN'S ROWBARGE

Notes for Editors:

**Gloriana, The Queen's Rowbarge**, was conceived and commissioned by Lord Sterling, and built with generous support from Eyal Ofer, The Gosling Foundation, The Weston Foundation and Lloyds Register in 2012. It was built as a lasting legacy from HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant. The Gloriana Trust was set up by Lord Sterling in 2016, to enable Gloriana to continue to be a source of pleasure and inspiration to those using The Thames for many years to come. The barge itself was built in just over 18 weeks by over 60 craftsmen project managed by Damian Byrne and master boatbuilder Mark Edwards of Richmond. Measuring over 90 feet from bow to stern, made almost entirely of wood and weighing just under ten tonnes, this was the first time in nearly 200 years that a vessel such as this had been built. The coach-house was decorated by leading names in the British interior furnishing and textile design industry – Hare and Humphries for the decoration and gilding, The Rug Company for floor coverings, and George Smith for the upholstery, with special design input from Kate Woods of Woods' Silver Fleet

**Lord Sterling** ran the London Celebrations for HM The Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees. For 25 years he was Executive Chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), and continues as Life President of P&O Cruises.

**Harris Federation Academies** ([www.harrisfederation.org.uk](http://www.harrisfederation.org.uk)). The success of Harris Academies has been highlighted in four separate sets of independent research:

Data experts *Watchsted* have ranked the Harris Federation first out of 26 sponsors for improving Ofsted outcomes in schools. The analysis, which you can read about on the Schools Week website, included all of the major academy trusts. In their research report, *Watchsted* say: "The data shows that the Harris Federation has improved its sample of 14 schools by a total of 28 grades. This gives an average improvement of two grades per school, indicating that Harris is effectively adding value to (i.e. improving) its academies."

*Department of Education Performance Tables for Multi Academy Trusts* has recognised Harris Academies as a 'top performer' in primary and secondary education in the Department for Education's first set of performance tables comparing MATs in England. They are one of just three MATs to be recognised as a top performer across both primary and secondary education.

*Sutton Trust 'Chain Effects'*, is the third annual report in a series that reviews how well disadvantaged students achieve in academies. The researchers found that as well as outperforming the national average for the attainment of disadvantaged students, Harris academies also outperform the London average which is higher. They highlight that the Harris Federation is one of 'a handful of chains (that) have performed consistently and significantly above the mainstream average for attainment across the last three years'.

*Education Policy Institute*, a new education think tank, compares the performance of MATs and Local Authorities in their first report. It states: 'At primary level the Harris Federation is the highest performing school group in England – the improvement it has made is equivalent to pupils making around one and a half terms more progress than average'.

**Other participating organisations:** British Rowing ([www.britishrowing.org](http://www.britishrowing.org)), London Youth Rowing ([www.londonyouthrowing.com](http://www.londonyouthrowing.com)), Skerries 4 Schools ([www.skerries4schools.org](http://www.skerries4schools.org)), Royal Docks Adventure ([www.royaldocksadventure.org](http://www.royaldocksadventure.org)), Shadwell Activity Centre ([www.shadwell-basin.co.uk](http://www.shadwell-basin.co.uk)), Port of London Authority ([www.pla.co.uk](http://www.pla.co.uk)), Thames Skills Academy ([www.thamesacademy.london](http://www.thamesacademy.london)).



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### **Gloriana Achievers' Day Schedule**

**10.00** Students arrive and are welcomed

**10.30** Learning to row

**12.30** Lunch

Visit Gloriana

**14.00** Gloriana Achievers' Regatta

All 10 boats complete a 1000m time trial (to find the fastest overall Academy)

Two 5 lane 500m races (to find the fastest crew from each Academy)

Winning two crews row Gloriana, escorted by the 8 other boats

**16.30** Closing - 'Your future in rowing'