



THE QUEEN'S ROWBARGE

**Review of the
2014 & 2015
Seasons**



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Welcome to the review of the events the Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana' has participated in over the past two seasons ~ 2014 and 2015.

The barge continues to be welcome at events up and down the Thames, always turning heads and raising smiles from the many spectators she draws to the river and we're confident she appears in numerous photo albums and on Facebook pages, phones and mobile devices all around the world ~ it's fortunate the crews are not camera shy!

~ 2014 ~

The season of 2014 began after a winter under canvas in the Port of London Authority yard at Denton where various minor repairs and re-varnishing tasks had been completed. Overall the barge is weathering very well open to the elements for over eight months of the year - more on this later.

As part of the George 1 celebrations at Hampton Court 'Gloriana' was chartered to carry King George and members of his Court to the Palace each day over the Easter weekend.



Volunteer rowing crews drawn from local clubs rowed each morning, crowds came to welcome the King ashore at the start of the days events and 'Gloriana' remained on the moorings on show for all to see – a great success.

The next event was the annual Tudor Pull from Hampton Court to HM Tower of London by HM Barge Master with a crew of Watermen from the Watermen & Lightermen Company.



The Stella was brought on board by HM Barge Master Paul Ludwig and safely placed in the saloon for the journey.

'Gloriana' and the escort flotilla of Livery Company cutters approaching Lambeth Bridge.



The flotilla arrived at Tower Hill and the Watermen, led by HM Barge Master, paraded to HM Tower of London and presented the Stella to the Duty Governor watched over by the Yeoman Warders.



In late May, at the invitation of Lord Sterling, the outgoing Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Cllr Roberts and his guests, were taken for an early evening row from St Katherine Docks.



The rowing crew was drawn from the two Greenwich rowing clubs, Curlew RC and Globe RC who rowed with great enthusiasm through central London whilst a harpist played ~ another first.

The refinement of the electrical power system continued under the supervision of Damian Byrne and Simon Davies, with additional modifications being made followed by extensive tests, whilst moored in St. Katherine Docks resulting in an improvement in control for the skipper.

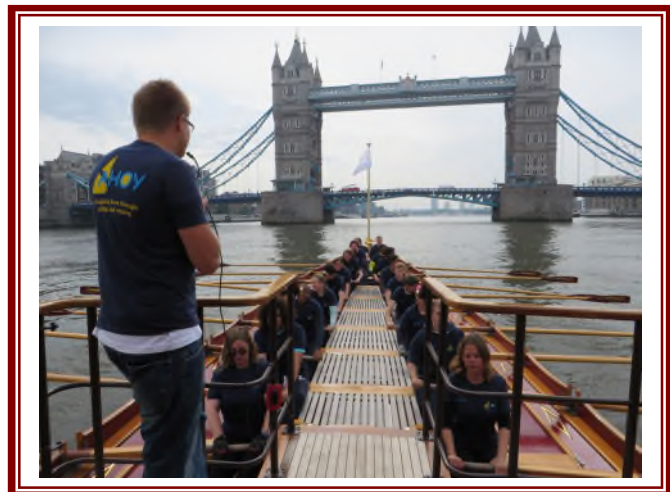
Meanwhile the Queen's Commonwealth Baton was travelling around the country and 'Gloriana' was invited to be a part of the relay in London on 7th June.

A crew from The Ahoy Centre in Deptford (www.ahoy.org.uk) was invited to row the leg from the London Fire Brigade pier in Lambeth to Bankside Pier, Southwark beside The Globe theatre.



The Queen's Commonwealth Games Baton on board

The Ahoy crew enjoying the row back to St. Katherine Docks coxed by their Training Manager Tony Mason



The Ahoy crew were youngsters, a number who had learning difficulties, assisted by staff, all of whom had learnt their rowing skills in Thames Watermen's cutters, based at the centre.

A week later an auction cruise for The Prince's Trust left Imperial Wharf, Chelsea with the guests enjoying the champagne and canapés being served as they were rowed by a volunteer crew of 'Gloriana Watermen' drawn from Thames Rowing Club.

Following a three day trip upstream, 'Gloriana' moored at the boat tents of Henley Royal Regatta for the duration of this wonderful annual event and once again we heard throughout the Stewards Enclosure the call of "I'll meet you beside the Queen's barge"



The Environment Agency launch leads the way as 'Gloriana' rows down to the start of the course for the row past after the last race.

The Westminster School RC crew stroked by their Head Coach, CD Riches, who had coached all the boys over recent years.

The row past was to celebrate the Bicentenary of the founding of their club.



Later in July, to support the proposed construction of a boat house for 'Gloriana' in the Borough of Richmond, 'Gloriana' carried the judges of 'Britain in Bloom' as part of their day inspecting the Borough's entries in the competition.

The proposal for a boathouse at New Orleans House in Twickenham however was not well received by the local residents and after a short period of consultation the plans were dropped.

Shortly afterwards, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames invited Lord Sterling to a meeting to discuss the possibility of a boat house for 'Gloriana' being built beside the Thames in the town.

These discussions continue with the proposal being very well received by both The Gloriana Trust and the local residents.

After a quiet month moored in St Katherine Docks, on view to the many visitors and tourists, 'Gloriana' once more set off, this time downstream, to participate in a row past at the Sail Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Regatta and to officiate a race to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the founding of Trinity House.



'Gloriana' astern of the Dutch tall ship 'Oostershelde' with a few of the row past flotilla

The 'Gloriana' crew from Poplar RC saluting the Polish Frigate 'Dar Mlodziezy'



The Thames Festival Classic Boat Regatta in St. Katherine Docks once again had 'Gloriana' in the centre basin on view to the thousands of visitors over the two day event on 13th/14th September.



Following the experiences of 2013 - namely the high number of visitors and resulting minor damage - this year we only permitted small groups of invited guests on board. The weekend was a great success with hundreds of visitors having a close encounter with 'Gloriana'.

Lord Sterling and Malcolm sprucing up 'Gloriana' in preparation for the Thames Festival ~ enjoying their work!

27th September was to be a busy day – two events. The first, ‘Row to Remember’ was organised by Kingston Rowing Club to raise funds for their clubhouse and the newly built Star & Garter Home in Surbiton.

Three different crews from Kingston RC took ‘Gloriana’ for outings past the frontage of Kingston upon Thames with accompanying IV’s and VIII’s, whilst fund raisers mingled with the crowds. A very successful local event enjoyed by many.

The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Cllr. Ken Smith and the Chairman of Kingston Rowing Club Mike Bates aboard ‘Gloriana’ approaching Kingston Bridge.



‘Gloriana’ then went on downstream to Hammerton’s Ferry in Twickenham to be a part of the finish of the Great River Race ~ the 22 mile Marathon of the River Thames raced each year by nearly 300 traditional rowing or paddles boats from around the UK and Europe.



The girls from Surbiton High School RC enjoyed a row down through Richmond before the finish of the Great River Race.



Once again the Lord Mayor's Flotilla was the final event of the year.

'Gloriana' crewed by Doggett's winners and volunteers from Livery Companies connected to the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alan Yarrow, led the flotilla of twenty boats from Pimlico downstream to RNR HMS President...



...a fitting conclusion to another very successful season for the Queen's Row Barge.

During the season we saw thousands of people enjoying the spectacle of this traditional row barge on the magical River Thames, onwards to 2015.

Simon Davies and his team once again carried out the necessary winter work to ensure the barge was maintained at the highest level after the 2014 season and in preparation for what was to be a busy year in 2015.

~ 2015 ~

800 years ago King John was summoned to Runnymede by his Barons to seal Magna Carta, the document which went on to be the basis of English law and the legal process around the World.

Celebrations were being planned in the Magna Carta towns and across the world but what would be happening on the meadows of Runnymede...?

Following another winter safely tucked away with the PLA at Denton 'Gloriana' was revealed to the waiting world at a new event in maritime London ~ The London Yacht, Jet & Prestige Car Show.

This was to be a two centre event, showrooms and display space at the old Billingsgate Market, Lower Thames Street and floating displays in St. Katherine Docks.

'Gloriana' played host to a fashion shoot which was publicised on an internet fashion site ~ all high tech'...



The annual Tudor Pull followed in mid May. Once again it was a splendid day with hundreds of spectators cheering the crews as they left Hampton Court Palace and after the short stop in Richmond.

The crew rowed down into London followed by the usual flotilla of twenty plus Livery cutters and skerries from local rowing clubs – a wonderful annual pageant.

At the end of May, as thank you to the continued support being provided by the Port of London Authority, 'Gloriana' was made available to their very strong rowing section to take the barge for a row through the Pool of London.



The PLA crew being encouraged by their Ch. Exec. Robin Mortimer rowing at 2 on stroke side

On 4th June 'Gloriana' moved up to Chelsea Harbour Pier in preparation for a Princes' Trust auction cruise the next day. The winners of the auction with their guests were served champagne and canapés by Mosimann's, as the crew of 'Gloriana Watermen' from Thames RC provided the manpower once again a very successful event.

The Thames Alive team had been working over the months with the local authorities of The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Spelthorne and Runnymede on the plans for a two day event to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

The concept was that a facsimile of Magna Carta would be carried on board a traditional rowing boat down the Thames from Hurley to Runnymede over two days, stopping at various locations for character actors to tell the story of Magna Carta.

The plans were developed and refined with 'Gloriana' as the Herald boat to the Charter boats and would, for the finale, carry King John to Runnymede for the re-enactment of the sealing.

Over the preceding three days 'Gloriana' made her way upstream to Bisham Abbey and on 13th June the first of two crews from Maidenhead RC arrived to provide the manpower. Meanwhile, the Charter flotilla was leaving Hurley and escort flotillas of boats from all over the UK were launching downstream.

With VIP guest on board 'Gloriana' set off downriver through Marlow Town Regatta, which suspended racing to permit her passage, the crew receiving assistance from Olympic and senior oarsmen and women from Marlow RC.



The Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana' with her escort of forty boats of all shapes sizes plus the sailing dinghies of Cookham Sailing Club arriving at the first stop in Cookham watched by 100's on the bank



The Herald flotilla making passage down the Cliveden reach

'Gloriana' and her escort of skiffs and cutters in Boulter's lock watched by the crowds.

The safety rib was provided by the RAF.



After mooring overnight at The Oakley Court Hotel and in Datchet, the flotillas continued downstream on a dank, grey morning to stop for the last time in Eton and Windsor where King John joined his Royal barge 'Gloriana', now being rowed by crews from Windsor Boys School.



King John acknowledging his subjects before continuing his Royal Progress to Runnymede

Meanwhile another 100 boats were launching at Runnymede to join those arriving from upstream.

The Queen's Shallop 'Jubilant' carrying Magna Carta and the last of the Barons arrives at Runnymede...



...followed by the King's barge with an escort of sixty boats including Gondola from Venice and Dghajsa from Malta.

The crowds had gathered and thousands watched the arrival and salute of tossed oars from the flotilla which was returned by the crew of 'Gloriana' as all the 200 escorting boats made their way to Runnymede.



A spectacular event involving hundreds of boats and thousands of people both on and off the water, celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta – a truly memorable day during which 'Gloriana' played a key role.

More pictures can be found at www.thamesalive.org.uk and a full report and pictures at www.heartheboatsing.com

The following day, during the invitation only event on Runnymede Meadows to which HM Queen, members of the Royal family, members of the Judiciary, Government and foreign dignitaries were invited, 'Gloriana' was the only craft permitted on the River Thames which was closed to all traffic. She moored opposite the main entrance on display to all the guests.

'Gloriana' continued a busy schedule, supporting a fundraising event for the Horace Walpole Gothic castle, Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, by carrying the Duke of Gloucester and Trustees from Richmond to moorings near the house, after which other supporters of the Trust came on board for short visits.

In early July, another auction cruise supporting the work by the British Asian Trust saw 'Gloriana' being rowed by a crew from London RC. The winner had generously donated the opportunity to come on board to the staff of his son's school in East London.



The guests showing their appreciation to the rowing and Ops crew of 'Gloriana'.

A few days later the Royal Warrant Holders Association held a reception in St. Katherine Docks, with 'Gloriana' moored beside the main pontoon. During this the guests had the opportunity to board and view the craftsmanship displayed in all aspects of the build.



Over the weekend of 11th/12th July 'Gloriana' supported the Kingston upon Thames Town Regatta with 'scratch' crews having the opportunity of rowing up the course in front of hundreds of spectators. The town moorings provided the opportunity for local residents to view the barge, which may have a permanent home in the town in the future.

After a short stopover in Shepperton Marina (another enthusiastic supporter of The Gloriana Trust) 'Gloriana' made her way upstream to take part in the Thames Traditional Boat Festival at Henley upon Thames.

The Festival is a rally of boats built of wood and riveted steel only, no fibre glass and no welded steel boats are permitted to attend. Those participating included the Dunkirk Little Ships, numerous traditional launches and rowing boats, and many other splendid craft from up and down the Thames, whilst ashore traditional boat building skills and recent historical events are celebrated with great enthusiasm, with many of those attending dressing in period costume.



'Gloriana' was centre stage with boats moored above and below her along the bank – on display for all to see her.

Two crews from the local rowing clubs Leander Club and Phyllis Court RC had the opportunity of rowing past their respective clubhouses when they took 'Gloriana' for outings during the two days.

It was another very successful event, with hundreds of river and traditional boat enthusiasts having the opportunity to view the craftsmanship of the Royal barge.

After a short stopover at our great friends, The Waterside Inn at Bray, 'Gloriana' made her way back down stream to London.

The oldest rowing race in the World is the annual Doggett Coat & Badge Wager which was celebrating its 300th anniversary on 1st August 2015. In honour, 'Gloriana' was invited to attend and was rowed by a crew from RNR HMS President.



The crew toss oars in salute to the scullers as they rowed past before returning to St Katherine Docks

A group of students from Oasis Academy, Enfield visited the barge on her moorings later in August as part of their studies on 'Life in London'.

On 9th September HM Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch in English history and it was only fitting that The Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana' should join a flotilla of craft saluting this great occasion.

'Gloriana' led the flotilla in salute to HM Queen



Once more 'Gloriana' was centre stage at the Thames Festival of Classic Boats in St. Katherine Docks over the weekend of 12th /13th September where yet again hundreds of visitors were able to have a close look at the Royal barge.

An auction cruise on behalf of the Save Children Fund, postponed from 2013 for various reasons, finally took place from Chelsea Harbour Pier on 19th September with, once again, a crew from London RC providing the manpower.



The London RC crew salute theirs and other boathouses of Putney during the early evening row

'Gloriana' made her way upstream one more time to Kingston, for another auction cruise on behalf of the local charity 'Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice'. The local judiciary rowing group 'Bench Blisters' provided the manpower for this row up to Hampton Court and back.

The auction winners and their guests having had an enjoyable evening outing on board 'Gloriana'



For the last time this year 'Gloriana' made her way back downstream to the safe moorings of St. Katherine Docks where, on 26th October, another group of students from the Oasis Academy paid a visit, again as part of their studies on 'Life in London'.

It should be reported that due to extreme weather conditions 'Gloriana' was unable to leave St. Katherine Docks on two occasions.

On Saturday 7th November a crew from the Cabinet Office Civil Service were due to take 'Gloriana' for an outing however due to high winds and heavy rain the conditions were considered to be too dangerous and the trip was postponed to next year.

Again, a week later due to high winds on Friday 13th November (unlucky for us!) the barge was unable to reposition to Chelsea in preparation for the Lord Mayor's Flotilla the following day.

It was with great regret that we were unable to carry Alderman the Lord Jeffrey Mountevans, the new Lord Mayor, and his party to the City that morning. Other arrangements were made and the flotilla set sail as planned in much improved conditions delivering the Lord and Lady Mayoress safely to RNR HMS President to commence the days' celebrations.

To complete the year, 'Gloriana' has once again been taken down river to the safe winter storage at the PLA yard, Denton where all the necessary annual maintenance will be carried out in the New Year.

Many people, organisations, clubs and companies have worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm to support the 'Gloriana' over these years and we sincerely hope they will continue thereby allowing the barge to play an active part in the life of the River Thames and London.

Malcolm KNIGHT
Events Manager
The Queen's Row Barge