



25 APRIL 2012

THE QUEEN'S ROWBARGE

NEWS RELEASE

Her Majesty The Queen names the Rowbarge "Gloriana"

In a ceremony that took place at Greenland Pier, Greenwich on Wednesday 25 April 2012, The Queen's Rowbarge was presented to Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen today named the Royal Rowbarge "Gloriana" as a lasting legacy to mark her Diamond Jubilee. The Queen has asked that "Gloriana" be retained by Lord Sterling and the Maritime Heritage Trust with assistance from Thames Alive. The Queen has approved the principle that Gloriana will be used to promote better use of the Thames. This can be achieved through providing opportunities for Royal-supported, and other charities, to play their part in occasions and celebrations upon the Thames, with a particular emphasis on events involving young people.

The Royal Rowbarge Gloriana will be at the head of the Thames Royal River Pageant on Sunday 3rd June. Under the auspices of Motability, Gloriana will be rowed by 18 oarsmen and women, including Olympic and Paralympic champions and disabled British servicemen, led by Sir Steve Redgrave and Sir Matthew Pinsent. Also on board will be other Paralympic champions and injured serving and ex-servicemen.

Conceived and commissioned by Lord Sterling, Gloriana was built with generous support from Eyal Ofer, The Gosling Foundation, The Weston Foundation, and Lloyds Register.

The barge itself was built in just over 18 weeks by a team of 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 10 tonnes, this is the first time in nearly 200 years that a vessel such as this has been built. The coach-house has been decorated by leading names in British interior furnishing and textile design industry – Hare and Humphreys for the artwork 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.

It is hoped that Gloriana will be a source of pleasure and inspiration to those using the Thames for many years to come.

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Notes to Editors:

1. Key to this project was the industrial unit identified by Cushman and Wakefield and most generously provided by Segro in the space of 48 hours. British Telecom also kindly set up communications for the site in under 24 hours. In addition, the team would like to thank RSA for providing ongoing insurance cover for the Rowbarge, Foster and partners for their help with the visualization of the completed vessel, and Brunswick Group for providing the media liaison team. The project has involved many other organisations and individuals, who have been both generous and helpful.
2. The project commenced with 3 months of intensive planning and design by naval architects Stuart Roy and Ed Burnett, working closely with the MCA and particularly Lloyds Register who gave a great deal of advice and support.

About Gloriana

In the Diamond Jubilee Pageant, on 3 June 2012, Gloriana will be the lead vessel, directly behind the Belfry. Guests on board the Gloriana will be made up of para-olympian champions and injured serving and ex-servicemen, together with those who have been involved with the Row Barge Project. She will be rowed by: Sir Steve Redgrave, Sir Matthew Pinsent, the LTA Mixed Cox Fours: James Roe, David Smith, Naomi Riches and Pamela Relph. Row 2 Recovery: Lieutenant Will Dixon, Corporal Rory Mackenzie, Corporal Neil Heritage and Ed Janvrin. 2000 Summer Olympic Games Silver Medal winners: Guin Batten and Miriam Batten. Chairman of Visit Britain: Chris Rodrigues CBE, "Gloriana" Boatbuilder: Mark Edwards and other members of the build team John Turk, Tyrone Marlow, Luke Scott and Will Carnwath.

Lord Sterling ran the London Celebrations for the Silver and the 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. He is Chairman of the Royal Museums Greenwich and the Cutty Sark Trust.

About Motability

The Motability Scheme was co-founded by the late Lord Goodman and the current Chairman Lord Sterling in 1977. Her Majesty The Queen has been Chief Patron from the beginning. It provides affordable, convenient, trouble-free motoring to around 600,000 disabled customers and their families and recently celebrated its 3millionth car. It also supplies cars to disabled cars to injured serviceman and Paralympians. More information about the Motability Scheme can be obtained by visiting www.motability.co.uk.



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About Hare & Humphreys

Hare & Humphreys are decorators, guilders and artists based in central London and Royal Warrant Holders. They have worked on projects such as Windsor Castle, following the fire damage, interiors at St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Opera House.

The company was formed by Peter Hare and Paul Humphreys who had worked together for a number of years before forming a partnership and establishing Hare & Humphreys in 1987. Both partners regularly give lectures to promote understanding of paint conservation and restoration. www.hare-humphreys.co.uk

About Woods' Silver Fleet

Woods' Silver Fleet run by siblings Tom and Kate Woods is proud to have been building and operating luxury river cruisers on the River Thames for the past 60 years. Their 61m flagship, Silver Sturgeon and new luxe river taxi Silver Darling feature interior detailing by Matthew Hilton, Alma Leather and Swarovski Crystal. They privately operate from Savoy Pier. The Woods family also co-founded London's river commuter service, Thames Clippers, whose launch flagship Kate Woods decorated with Damien Hirst. Waterman to HM the Queen and Chairman, Alan Woods, designed and built six vessels featuring in the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant.

www.silverfleet.co.uk

About George Smith

George Smith is a leading British manufacturer of fine handmade furniture and fabrics. All of the George Smith collections are built by hand in the workshops in Newcastle where skilled craftsmen continue to marry traditional upholstery and joining techniques with innovative style and design. The showroom is on the Kings Road in London (587-589 Kings Road, London, SW6 2EH), there is also a showroom in Harrogate (54 Parliament Street, Harrogate, HG1 2RL) and a small showroom attached to the workshop in Newcastle. George Smith also has showrooms in New York, LA and Chicago and is available through a network of distributors throughout the rest of the USA and Europe. www.georgesmith.co.uk

About Carvers and Guilders

Established in 1979, Carvers and Guilders are a skilled team specialising in fine woodcarving and gilding, committed to providing work of the highest quality. Their work covers the conservation and restoration of fine furniture, mirror frames, carved objects and decorative surfaces as well as work on boats. www.carversandgilders.com



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About The Rug Company

The Rug Company was founded in London by Christopher and Suzanne Sharp in 1997, with the unique vision of bringing together the ancient craft of rug making with innovative contemporary design.

As well as designing its own in-house collections, the company collaborates with some of today's most talented designers including Alexander McQueen, Paul Smith, Vivienne Westwood, Diane von Furstenberg and Tom Dixon.

The Rug Company understands the unique heritage and quality of traditional rug artisanship; its weavers in Nepal continue to craft the rugs entirely by hand, using the very same techniques and naturally luxurious yarns their ancestors did. This ensures that every handmade piece is entirely individual and will last for generations. www.therugcompany.com

About Watts 1874

Architects of textiles, wallpaper and passementerie for over 130 years, Watts1874 is a leading supplier of very fine fabrics, wallpapers and passementerie to the global interiors market.

A unique English company, and guardians of an archive of genuine period design, Watts continues to be able to create bespoke decorative design solutions that transform a project from the commonplace to the individual. www.watts1874.com