



THE QUEEN'S ROWBARGE

*Review of the  
2018 Season*

~ 2018 ~

After a winter in the Port of London facilities at Denton, having much needed maintenance work completed, 'Gloriana' was once more launched in March and passed as 'fit for duty' by the Marine Coastguard Agency.

An appearance at **The Boat Race Festival of Rowing** was to be the first engagement in this season. After an overnight with The Chiswick Pier Trust the Royal barge was moved down to Putney Pier where the guests boarded and the crew of volunteer Gloriana Watermen took their seats.

Meanwhile the escort flotilla and boats for the subsequent Thames Traditional Rowing Association Oxbridge Challenge arrived at Putney.



On schedule 'Gloriana' set off up the course followed by an International selection of boats – Maltese Dghajsa, Venetian Sandola, Bedford (USA) Whaler with Thames skiffs, a wherry, Shallops and Watermen's cutters all tossing oars in salute to each of the rowing clubs and spectator hubs along the way.

The very enthusiastic racing of the amateur crews in the Watermen's cutters and London Cornish Pilot Gig Club in the 1829 replica Oxbridge gigs followed vying for the trophies in the Oxbridge Challenge.

A wonderful, colourful sight on the rather grey Old Father Thames!

Mid-April saw Gloriana in the Royal Docks for the very popular **Gloriana Achievers Day** based at Royal Docks Adventure.

The 2017 winners Harris Academy from Chafford Hundred, Essex came to defend their trophy being challenged by youngsters from Harris Academy Rainham and Oaklands School, Hackney.

They were met by Lord Sterling and Olympians Sir Steve Redgrave and Andy Triggs-Hodge and introduced to the sport of rowing in skerries by the coaches from Skerries 4 Schools and London Youth Rowing.

First few strokes  
under the watchful  
eye of the Skerries 4  
Schools coaches



A few tips from the Master  
~ Sir Steve Redgrave,  
sitting in the cox's position

Harris Academy  
Rainham being  
presented with the  
Achievers Blade



They are all winners!



Once again the day was huge success with the youngsters describing the day as: 'An amazing experience!', 'Fantastic fun, amazing' and 'Great, happy, tiring!'.

Sir Steve Redgrave said after the prize giving "I'm thrilled that we could give so many youngsters the opportunity to get out on the water. I was happy to help them with some tips on how to get the most out of learning to row, plus of course cheering on the crews as they competed for this fabulous prize."

'Gloriana' then returned to her summer home of St. Katherine Docks for a visit to the Royal barge from members of the **Air Attaché's Spouses Association**. The eleven members from eight different countries enjoyed the opportunity to board 'Gloriana' following a short reception and presentation in the Ward Room of RNR HMS President hearing about the build and events over the previous years.

The conversation even included discussions about the possibility of transporting 'Gloriana' to the USA in the hold of a Super Galaxy aircraft ~ slightly surreal!

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May for the **London on Water Show** where visitors to the show were welcomed on board.

Immediately afterwards the Royal barge went upstream to Thames Ditton in preparation for the annual **Royal Watermen's Tudor Pull**.



This was the first official duty on board the Royal barge for the newly appointed HM Queen's Barge Master Chris Livett.

Following the ceremony at Hampton Court Palace he carried the Stela down to 'Gloriana' escorted by 'Henry VIII', Royal Watermen and Masters of the Water Conservators and Watermen & Lightermen Companies.

The crew and guests on board 'Gloriana' were joined for the first section by the TV presenter Tony Robinson who was filming the programme 'Walking the Thames' ~ he appreciated the lift down to Richmond!



The crew of Royal Waterman rowed down into London followed by the now usual flotilla of twenty Livery Company cutters and skerries from local rowing clubs organised by The Thames Traditional Rowing Association.



The day was completed when HM Barge Master fulfilled his duties by passing the Stela in to the care of the Deputy Governor of The Tower of London ~ watched by some slightly bemused tourists!

After a short stay back in St. Katherine Docks 'Gloriana' returned to Thames Ditton for what was to be a very special event, the prize giving for **Chris Evans' BBC Radio 2 '500 Words Competition'**.

The programme was broadcast from Fountain Court, Hampton Court Palace and after the winners were announced they were driven in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang down to the river where the Duchess of Cornwall (Patron of the competition) welcomed them aboard 'Gloriana'



The winners and judges before they boarded the Royal barge (L-R Jim Broadbent, Jason Isaacs, Duchess of Cornwall, David Walliams, Chris Evans, Dara O'Brian and Shobna Gulati)...



...where the Duchess was welcomed on board by HM Barge Master and the Rowing Master of Kingston Grammar School, sharing a jolly moment with the KGS junior crew.





The Gloriana then took the winners, their parents and Chris Evans for a short row downstream escorted by skiffs from Dittons Skiff & Punting Club.



A memorable day for everyone involved, shared with all the BBC Radio 2 listeners around the World.

The next day 'Gloriana' was on duty again, this time for a charity row on behalf of the **Lord's Taverners** who had raised substantial funds for their work with disabled children through the auctioning of a cruise on board.

The guests met at the Chairman's house above Molesey lock, walked down and joined the Royal barge on the lock moorings where the volunteer rowing crew from Weyfarers RC in Weybridge were ready and waiting.

The row down to Teddington was made particularly memorable with the celebrated opera singer Alexandra Lowe being on board who serenaded the guests and rowers alike as the Royal barge made a stately progress downstream.

The video can be viewed at:

[www.facebook.com/GlorianaQRB/videos/1541442819317498](https://www.facebook.com/GlorianaQRB/videos/1541442819317498)



'Gloriana' arriving at Molesey lock to collect the guests

Rowing under Hampton Court Bridge



The following day 'Gloriana' made her way upstream a couple of miles to Walton RC where she was to take part in the celebrations by **Cranmore School for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their rowing club.**

A crew of alumni took up the oars with the Headmaster and guests enjoying the sight of an escort flotilla of fine boats being rowed by boys and girls from the school.





'Gloriana' now spent three weeks in Shepperton Marina under-going minor repairs to some woodwork before once again making her way downstream to **Kingston upon Thames for the annual regatta.**



Arriving in Kingston in style with ladies from Weybridge Ladies Amateur Rowing Club at the oars

A crew of Gloriana Watermen took the Royal barge for a row past on the regatta course with the Mayors of the Royal Borough of Kingston and Richmond upon Thames on board.



The next three days saw 'Gloriana' making her way upstream to Henley arriving for an evening reception for The Rug Company at the site of the **2018 Thames Traditional Boat Festival** on Fawley Meadow.



The guests and crew enjoyed a peaceful early evening row down the Henley reach turning below Temple Island.



Over the next three days five crews took 'Gloriana' with guests of the Festival for a row down the reach as part of the celebrations and displays at this annual festival of traditionally built boats ~ no fibreglass allowed!



Upper Thames RC  
with Macmillan  
Support volunteers



Leander Club  
Presidents XVIII  
turning in front of  
their clubhouse

Henley RC arriving at  
Temple Island in time  
to salute a wedding  
taking place on this  
river landmark



The Henley Whalers  
showing their enjoyment  
after a paddle on their  
home waters



The London Cornish Pilot Gig Club  
rowing gig style *and* serenading the  
passengers with Cornish rowing  
songs ~ two firsts on board  
'Gloriana'!!

The video is on our Facebook page



A wonderful weekend on the River Thames with hundreds of spectators enjoying the spectacle of 'Gloriana' looking at her best in the beautiful summer sunshine.

'Gloriana' now visited Harleyford Marina for the first time as safe moorings before another charity row a week later.

The **Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QUEST)** held their auction in March and the CEO of a Howdens Ltd. won the opportunity to hold a function on board the Royal barge and elected to have it at Henley.



Arrangements were made to moor outside Leander Club and a volunteer crew from Wargrave Boating Club were once again welcomed on board.

On yet another warm, sunny but slightly windy evening the guest enjoyed the outing down the Henley Royal Regatta course whilst drinks and canapes were served thereby raising funds for QUEST, another wonderful charity event.

After a couple of nights in Harleyford Marina 'Gloriana' made her way downstream for the last time this season returning to St. Katherine Docks for the month of August where she remained on view to the many visitors.

A new operations supporter of 'Clean to Gleam' now took on the challenge of polishing the red paintwork on board making a splendid job of bringing it back to a high gloss. They continue to support by making regular visits to polish up the woodwork to match the brass work being continually polished by the Ops crew from 3D Marine (UK) ~ well done and thank you everyone!



The next event was to support and enhance the **Marine Society & Sea Cadets National Combined Regatta** being held in the Royal Docks at Excel. With continued support from RoDMA moorings were booked and Gloriana made her way downstream and locked in to the King George V lock beside London Dockland airport.

On the day of the regatta 'Gloriana' was moored beside the course allowing all the competitors a close-up view as they went up to the start of their races whilst invited guests from all the area sections of the Sea Cadets were welcomed on board for short visits.

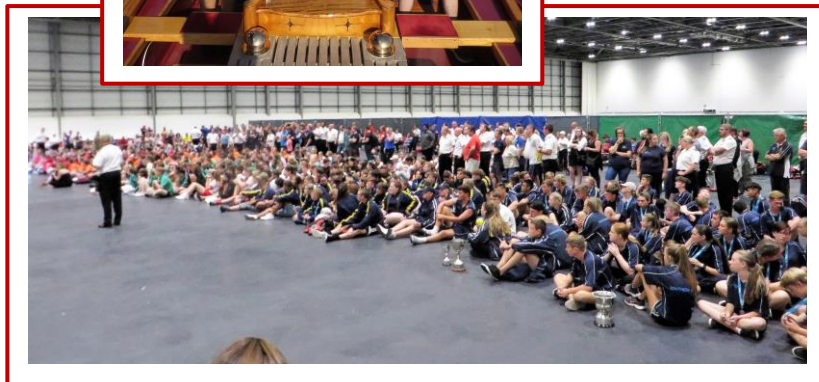


Crews going up to the start passing 'Gloriana'



The Sea Cadet crew from all over the UK pulling together in a finale row past and on the mid deck afterwards with Commodore Fry.

The 400 Sea Cadet at their prize giving in Excel



After this very successful event 'Gloriana' returned to her St Katherine moorings in preparation for the annual **Thames Festival of Classic Boats** where she would once again be on the central pontoon.



The first morning of the Festival began with the weather presenter from 'Good Morning Britain' featuring the Royal barge in her presentation and went on to be a busy weekend with many visitors to the show taking the opportunity of having a close look at the Royal Barge with invited guests being welcomed on board.

The final day included a short talk on 'The Life of Gloriana' to visitors sitting on the central pontoon whilst being able to enjoy viewing the barge at the same time.



The **UK National Police Rowing Championships** back upstream at Walton RC was the next outing for 'Gloriana'. Crews from four forces around the UK came together for an enthusiastic days rowing which culminated in an invitation crew from all the forces coming together to row 'Gloriana'.



Commissioner Cressida Dick CBE QPM joins the Met. rowers beside 'Gloriana'





Back downstream to Chiswick Pier overnight and then a **Gloriana weekend of rowing** for clubs and schools based at the Livett's Launches Putney Pier whilst ashore on the Sunday the **Tideway Foreshore Festival** was held.

The weather wasn't great but the crews of all ages thoroughly enjoyed the experience of rowing the Royal barge.

The crews were juniors from Fulham Reach RC and Putney High School, students from Imperial College RC, a mixed aged crew from London RC, seniors from Dittons Skiff & Punting Club and Langstone Cutters and finally a crew of British Rowing volunteers from all over the UK ~ a true example of fellowship through rowing!





The final event for the season of 2018 was a truly memorable day ~ **The Armistice Day 100 Flotilla** when 'Gloriana' led MV 'Havengore' and a flotilla of twenty-five boats to commemorate the signing of the Armistice 100 years ago with a Service of Remembrance outside the Palace of Westminster.

"On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleven month we will remember them."



Tower Bridge opened in full salute as the flotilla led by 'Gloriana' passed below whilst the opera singer on board MV 'Havengore' sang 'Rule Britannia'





The crew of 'Gloriana' waiting for the order to spread their poppies on the River Thames

The final salute whilst singing the National Anthem



The crew then enjoyed the row back downstream to RNR HMS President – Tower Bridge didn't open this time!



The invitation crew of friends and supporters of the Royal barge, a very eclectic group ~ Olympians, Paralympians, Atlantic rowers, World Record holders, HRR winners and some who just enjoy messing about in boats ~ wonderful fellowship through rowing.

With this special event the successful season of 2018 came to a close.

This was the final event for Malcolm Knight who has planned, organised and supervised all the events over the past seven years. We wish him well with his next venture, as this chapter closes we're sure he'll start another.

There are many more pictures and video of all the events on our Facebook page which can be accessed through the main web site.

'Gloriana' is once again safely stored away at the PLA yard, Denton, with a winter maintenance programme in place to ensure she will continue to look at her best for the season in 2019 and on into the future.

We look forward to seeing you out on the River Thames next year.

Malcolm KNIGHT  
Events Manager  
The Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana'