

PRESS RELEASE: 18 June 2015

HAVENGORE AWARDED 'REGIONAL FLAGSHIP OF THE YEAR'

Historic vessel *Havengore* has been awarded the accolade 'Regional Flagship of the Year' in recognition of her programme of public events along the Thames. The award, presented by National Historic Ships UK, reflects the key role that *Havengore* has in several significant events and ceremonies during 2015:

- In January 2015 *Havengore* led an important event: The Churchill 2015 Commemorative River Service. Having had the honour of carrying Sir Winston Churchill from Tower Pier to Festival Pier as part of his State Funeral in 1965, *Havengore* retraced the route taken exactly 50 years previously. Members of the Churchill family were on board, and the event was watched by an estimated 40,000 people from the banks and bridges of the Thames and also achieved 2.86 million mentions on Twitter, enabling the public to participate in remembering the great Statesman. The event was covered by news teams worldwide, including the South China Morning Post, The Times of Israel and many more.
- *Havengore* will be starting the Annual Tow Driving Race again this year on 4 July at Greenwich, following the rowers down to Westminster for the finish. This fun event is watched by hundreds of people from the banks of the Thames, with lots of other vessels following the race upriver.
- *Havengore* will play a major part in the Thames Festival 2015 on the river in September, and will have open days within St Katharine Docks when members of the public can come on board for a tour.
- For Armistice Day on 11 November, *Havengore* will lead a small flotilla of boats down to Westminster. Once again a wreath of remembrance will be placed on the waters opposite the Palace of Westminster.

The award is a Broad Pennant, together with £250 to be spent on *Havengore*. Commenting on the accolade, *Havengore*'s owner Mr Chris Ryland said: "We are very honoured to receive this award, particularly in this special year as we commemorate the life of Sir Winston Churchill."

HAVENGORE
LONDON



Chris Ryland, (right) owner of *Havengore*, accepts the '**Regional Flagship of the Year**' award from Alan Watson, National Historic Ships Committee Member, on board *Havengore* at her moorings in St Katharine Docks.

Further information on *Havengore*:

Built by Tough Brothers for the Port of London Authority, *Havengore* took two years to build, from 1954-1956, and operated on the Thames as a Ceremonial Launch and Hydrographic Survey Vessel for almost 40 years. She was honoured on 30 January 1965 when, watched by a worldwide audience of 350 million people, she carried Sir Winston Churchill from Tower Pier to Festival Pier as part of his State Funeral. Decommissioned by the PLA in 1995, her restoration began in 1997. Fully restored to her former glory, she resumed her ceremonial duties such as: leading Armistice Day on the Thames and officially starting the Thames Annual Barge Race. During HM Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant in 2012, *Havengore* had the honour of carrying a total of nine members of the Royal family together with Lord Mayor of London, the Mayor of London and other dignitaries. Later in 2012 she carried the Paralympic Torch Relay Team from Greenwich to Canary Wharf as part of the opening celebrations.

Further details available from:

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