



MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 2 September 2015



Royal River Salute – One week to go

Spectators encouraged to create a ‘wave of applause’

Spectators intending to watch a river procession to celebrate The Queen becoming the longest reigning monarch in British history are being encouraged to create a wave of cheers and applause as the flotilla sails down the River Thames.

At midday on Wednesday 9 September historic vessels, leisure cruisers and passenger boats will take part in the event to mark 63 years and 216 days since Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne.

The procession, part of the Totally Thames celebration - a month-long season of river-related events taking place throughout September - will include [Havengore](#), the Queen’s row barge [Gloriana](#), the fireboat [Massey Shaw](#) and the steam ship [SS George Stephenson](#).

It will begin east of Tower Bridge at midday, with the vessels sounding their horns for one minute. The bridge will lift and as the procession passes by HMS Belfast a four gun salute will sound and Massey Shaw will shoot jets of water into the air. In scenes reminiscent of The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee River Pageant, it is hoped that visitors and residents will line the river and clap and cheer as the flotilla sails by. The procession will end approximately thirty minutes later outside the Houses of Parliament with a final fanfare and ‘three cheers’.

The owner of Havengore, Chris Ryland, is coordinating the event. He said:

“Those of us who were lucky enough to take part in the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant will never forget the great warmth which Londoners - and many others from across the world - showed as they lined the river banks to cheer Her Majesty. This would seem to form a very fitting sequel”.

Mr Adrian Evans, Director Totally Thames and Pageant Master said: “The Diamond Jubilee flotilla of a thousand boats, re-established the River Thames as an arena for royal pageantry. How apt it is then that the river community should want to celebrate the moment when Her Majesty becomes the longest serving monarch in British history with a joyous flotilla on the Thames. Doubtless, the skippers are all hoping that the sun will shine on Wednesday 9 September!”

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

Photo/filming opportunities: There are a limited number of media places available on the deck of HMS Belfast, which offers unrestricted views of Tower Bridge and the flotilla from on deck. Media wishing to take advantage of this should notify Gemma Pettman (see below) by Friday 4 September.

Media may also wish to locate themselves on Westminster Bridge to capture the conclusion of the procession. Please note media should consider notifying Westminster Council if they intend to film in the area.

For further information, please contact Gemma Pettman from *Havengore* on 07968 125717 or gemma@gemmapettmanpr.co.uk

About Havengore:

Built by Tough Brothers for the Port of London Authority, *Havengore* took two years to build (1954-1956) and operated on the Thames as a Ceremonial Launch and Hydrographic Survey Vessel for almost 40 years.

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. In 2015, *Havengore* recreated the journey she took some fifty years earlier, when she carried Sir Winston Churchill at the culmination of his state funeral.

About Totally Thames: Delivered by the Thames Festival Trust, Totally Thames takes place over the whole month of September. It brings the river to life with an exciting season of arts, cultural and river events throughout its 42-mile London stretch. The inaugural Totally Thames in 2014 attracted audiences of 2.7 million to its 134 events throughout September.

For more information visit www.totallythames.org

About Thames Festival Trust: Since 1997 when the famous wire walk took place across the Thames in central London, the Thames Festival Trust has organised 17 festivals along and on the river which have been enjoyed by over 12 million people. What started as an event around the South Bank has stretched to embrace the 42-mile stretch of the Thames in London from Hampton Court Palace in the west to the Dartford Crossing in the east. Thames Festival Trust is led by Artistic Director Adrian Evans, who was the Pageant Master for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee river celebrations.