



National Historic Ships
The official voice for historic vessels in the UK

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All aboard for the launch of British Tourism Week at a pier near you...

National Historic Ships has been working closely with the organisers of British Tourism Week 12 - 20 March 2011 to ensure that historic vessels are involved in Party on the Pier (POTP) – this year's exciting opening Tourism Week event which is being held on Saturday 12 March. The occasion will allow us to celebrate the heritage of Britain's piers, encouraging both tourists and residents to visit them, learn about their historic importance and the need to maintain and in some cases restore them. To maximize the number of communities involved, a broad definition of the word 'pier' has been used, so that jetties, harbours, river piers and landing stages will all host events simultaneously around the country.

National Historic Ships is the official voice for historic vessels in the UK, championing their interests and working to advise government and funding bodies to ensure their long-term conservation wherever possible. We run the National Register of Historic Vessels, which lists over 1,000 vessels and are pleased to be co-ordinating Party on the Pier events at the following locations: Southampton, Ullswater, Newlyn, Gillingham, Rochester, Portsmouth, Greenwich, Lowestoft, Clevedon and Lincolnshire (see Editors' Notes below for more details). These will involve a wide range of vessels including steam powered passenger ship *Shieldhall*, Cornish lugger *Ripple*, motor tug *Touchstone* and Humber super sloop *Spider T*.

Tourism is Britain's 5th largest industry which employs directly or indirectly around 2.6 million people and is worth £115 billion a year to the UK economy. Party on the Pier provides a good opportunity to promote our maritime heritage to a wider audience, offering one-off events that will appeal to visitors from all walks of life. Don't miss the chance to support the historic vessels in your region by participating in these activities - you could find yourself taking a Titanic tour of historic Southampton, learning the art of Morse code in Gillingham, setting sail on the river at Rochester, joining artists painting on the quay at Newlyn or even joining a Peer on the Pier as you take tea with Lord Inglewood in Ullswater.

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part of **british tourism week™**

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Notes for Editors:

National Historic Ships advises the Department of Culture, Media & Sport and a range of grant giving organisations on priorities for ship conservation and is the official voice for historic vessels in the UK. It maintains the National Register of Historic Vessels, which lists over a thousand significant craft.

www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk

Party on the Pier / British Tourism Week events involving historic vessels:

Greenwich Historic Ships Harbour Project

The Greenwich Historical Ships Harbour (GHSB) project aims to make East Greenwich Coaling Jetty a public heritage facility enabling historic ships to visit and dock in London with facilities for restoration and conservation projects, skills training, education, research and opportunities for the public and local community to participate. The GHSB team will be sharing their aspirations with the public at a free 'Party on the Pier' on Saturday 12 March. At the party there will be a number of local groups and a small tented exhibition on the history project and proposals for the pier, with handouts by the boat crews and the opportunity to sign up as a supporter.

Discover Lincolnshire Weekend event

Historic Fleet vessel, *Spider T*, is opening at 10am-5pm on Sat 12th and Sun 13th. Mal Nicholson will be giving various talks throughout the weekend and will be officially opening the new library filled with many rare book copies of historic Humber vessels, people and places, which will be available to view. The artist Lesley Everatt will be in attendance and exhibiting some of her artwork, together with Chris Horan, the author of the recently launched book 'Humber *Sail* and History'. Also launching will be 'The Friends of Spider T' support group.

Heritage Quay & Newson's Boat Yard, Waveney District Council

Display of heritage vessels and maritime heritage in Lowestoft as a tourist attraction. The event will showcase Lowestoft's maritime heritage whilst attracting visitors and residents to celebrate British Tourism Week. Vessels on show at Heritage Quay include *Mincarolo* (a sidewinder fishing ship) and MTB102. Also on display will be the shells from the international boat building college based in Lowestoft and a sample engine from steam ships. There are also attractions including Newsons Yard, ships involved with the Dunkirk evacuation that are being restored, display by the international boat building college, display on the steam fishing vessel *Lydia Eva*.

Southampton Pier & Docks

This event will start from Kuti's Royal Thai Pier restaurant and offer a tour of maritime Southampton. The initial part of the tour will focus on the history of the pier, the building and its connection to the Royal Family and others. The guide will connect the Pier, the building and the development of the *Port* of Southampton up to the present time. The tour will then continue to the Titanic Museum/Southampton Maritime Museum before moving on by bus to *Shieldhall* where the passengers will be met by the ship's crew/sea cadets for a tour of the *wheel house* steering gear and a short presentation on the history of the ship and her connection with Southampton. In particular, passengers will inspect the same steering system as used by the *Titanic*. From the dock head, the tour will go to the *Titanic* berth before finishing back at Kuti Thai restaurant.

Pooley Bridge Pier, Ullswater

Eden District Council's Economic Development and Tourism team are joining forces with Ullswater Steamers to stage a unique "Tea Party on the Pier" which will take place on Saturday 12th March. Visitors to Pooley Bridge Pier on Saturday between 10am and 3pm will be greeted by people in 1930's costume provided by Penrith Players. They will also have a chance sample light refreshments being supplied by Dalemain Historic House and the local RNLI group. The pier at Pooley Bridge will be specially decorated with bunting for the occasion and scheduled steamers calling at Pooley Bridge that day will also be decorated with bunting and flags.

Newlyn Harbour & Quay

Painting Party on the Quay - Luggers and traditional boats in The Old Harbour getting a fresh coat of paint for the new season. Artists and painters on the Quay painting the scene. A Newlyn Archive photographic display of the Old 14th century harbour and its luggers in their heyday. The Mayor of Penzance and the Chairman of the Harbour Commissioners will be making a guest appearance they will be presented with brushes and paint to do some painting of their own. All are welcome.

Those attending may bring their cameras, canvas, brushes, paints or sketch pad and join in or just come along and enjoy the rare sight. For those with bygone memories someone will be on hand to record them.

Gillingham Pier, Kent

Party on the Pier - All Aboard! Free nautical, family friendly activities and performances throughout the day aboard LV21, a 40-metre steel-hulled Light Vessel moored at Gillingham Pier. Sea shanties, performed by the Hog Eye Men and the Big Fish Street Band, will get you into mariner mood. Join the drop-in workshops to add your own paper boat to their ever growing fleet, try your hand at 'porthole art' or learn the art of Morse code. Meet people behind other local restoration projects: the paddle steamer *Medway Queen*, the last steamer surviving in the UK amongst others. On the pier next to LV21 you will find the Kent Cultural Baton, a project aimed at uncovering unknown and hidden stories about the county. Or just bring your fishing rod and try your luck fishing off the Pier!

Rochester Pier, Kent

The motor tug *Touchstone* will be at the Sun Pier, The Esplanade at Rochester providing free river trips and vessel tours on 18-20 March, 10am - 3pm.

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

With 50% off entry to the Spinnaker Tower and Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, this promises to be a great opportunity to explore Portsmouth Harbour, together with further special offers and discounts from many of the restaurants at Gunwharf Quays. Terms and Conditions can be viewed on the website:

www.portsmouthbigdayout.co.uk