



## May 2018 Edition – News from MV Balmoral Fund Limited – owners of MV Balmoral

Dear Supporters

### WHERE ARE WE UP TO?

Since our last Update in December much work has been undertaken to plan how to get MV Balmoral sailing again - which we know is the main reason why so many of us support the ship. In the process we have learned much more about the need to describe her unique qualities so the magnitude of the task looks greater than when we started. We have to face up to the challenge of developing the resources to achieve that objective - it is not just a matter of finance (vital though that is) but also our capacity as a small young charity to manage a multi-million pound project - at the same time as progressing our charitable and educational objectives! It is now clear that until we can demonstrate substantial progress on these fronts it will be difficult to attract the high level of financial support we seek, whether from HLF and/or other grant making bodies or patrons who could otherwise regard us as high risk. HLF have advised us that "People and community outcomes were not considered commensurate with the high grant request". This will be a bigger challenge now that we know that we will have to move Balmoral away from M Shed for the summer. The better news is that we may well be eligible for HLF grants to obtain professional assistance to develop our capacity as a charity to meet these criteria - and this we intend to explore.

### WHAT ARE OUR PLANS THEN?

- We need to develop the benefits to Bristol of Balmoral being there - with links to community activities and relationships with local organisations and businesses - use the ship as a **unique** venue and educational resource - co-operate with the Port Authority to ensure public access to the ship can be re-instated as soon as possible. NB - *Community benefit must be demonstrable in the "development phase" and as we execute our plans. We cannot park this requirement until MV BALMORAL is sailing again if we are to retain our ability to apply to HLF for funding. Similarly our charitable status requires us to continue to develop the ship as an effective base for heritage and science learning (educational benefit) before, as well as when, she sails again.*
- The "winter berth" outside M Shed will not be available to us again until sometime in September so our plans will be developed as above, ready to implement as soon as she is back on the berth. In the meantime MV Balmoral will move to another berth in the Bristol Floating Harbour where unfortunately there will be no public access to the ship, other than for our maintenance teams on Tuesdays and Fridays. This means that on board events will not be able to resume until the autumn. It is hoped that the ship will move under her own power mid May - subject to weather conditions and finalisation of arrangements.
- Develop our organisation at all levels: strengthen the Board – develop/expand personal and corporate membership to widen the range of skills available to run the charity – increase the number of active volunteers to resource Harbourside/on-board events. *Although the short term future of the ship looks as if it will be in/around Bristol we are keen to keep in touch with our Members, Volunteers and Supporters in other areas as we seek ways to maintain the links we have built up in our sailing catchment areas.*
- Explore all potential sources of funding, not just HLF, as considerable capital will be needed for renewal work on the ship as well as working capital to operate her again.
- Maintain MV BALMORAL her engines and infrastructure to keep her as a registered ship - a unique operational survivor. Keep abreast via MCA of any developing regulations which might be critical to our ability to bring her back into service.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS APPROACH?

- Our intention remains to bring MV BALMORAL back into service as soon as possible.
- At this stage we cannot put a time scale on this as we do not know how long it will take to raise sufficient funds, what conditions may be applied nor the exact regulations we may need to meet by the time funds are available.
- We need more people actively involved in running and developing the charity before we can make much progress. We are substantially under-resourced for the task now facing us.
- We must take time to explore our options, get things right and build sustainability into our plans.
- Hopefully we will emerge as a stronger organisation capable of meeting these challenges and securing the long term future of “our ship”.

## APPEAL UPDATE:

- The proceeds of our November Appeal are now being applied to maintenance of the ship's engines and infrastructure on a continuous cycle, as well as to necessary work to develop funding bids and educational/community and profit-making activities on and around the ship in fulfillment of our charitable objectives. The appeal will therefore remain open for donations towards these activities which are needed to achieve the return of MV Balmoral to operation. To date this appeal has raised some £96,000 but we will now be needing millions more. Since the Fund took responsibility for the ship four years ago we have raised around £1.15 million - from grants, legacies and your donations - so we just need build on that.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June

- Official notice of the AGM will be sent to Members only shortly – they are the only ones who can vote at the meeting. Provisional arrangements are for the AGM to be held at 1400 prompt (arrival from 1330) at the Pavilion, Hanover Quay, Harbourside BS1 5JE (above the Spitfire restaurant) on Saturday 9 June 2018. Agendas will also published on our website [www.mybalmoral.org.uk](http://www.mybalmoral.org.uk) and the [MV BALMORAL](#) facebook page. The meeting provides an opportunity for questions and informal discussion. If you are not a member but wish to vote at the meeting, there is still time to apply for membership. Membership details are available on our website [www.mybalmoral.org.uk](http://www.mybalmoral.org.uk) from where an application form can also be downloaded. If you are wishing to speak as a new member at the meeting can you please ensure your application is in the hands of our Membership Secretary not later than Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

- There has not been enough news to produce UPDATE! at regular intervals in recent months but it is still our intention to e-mail these to you from time to time. After 25<sup>th</sup> May new data protection regulations are being introduced across Europe which mean that we can only keep your e-mail address and other contact details on file with your consent. Without having a dated record of that consent we will no longer be permitted to send you information – so can we please ask you to sign up again using the RED BUTTON link below. Wherever you live do please opt-in to stay in touch so we can keep you up to date with our plans as they develop. You will be able to “unsubscribe” later if you wish.

Keep hearing from us

- You may have noticed changes to our website [www.mybalmoral.org.uk](http://www.mybalmoral.org.uk) We are now managing this “in house” which enables us to update it more quickly and also show “News” on the front page. Do please visit this regularly as it is a good way to keep up to date with what is going on in between Newsletters– particularly when events are being organised on or for the ship.
- We are also continuing to use the old WFL [MV BALMORAL](#) facebook page. The purpose of this facebook page is to share news and views about MV Balmoral and events on board – page visitors are encouraged to post photographs of the ship – particularly older or unusual ones and the page is another way of providing information to anyone interested in the ship.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE:

- Some of you may be aware that a film crew were operating from MV Balmoral off Ilfracombe for a couple of days last summer and alongside in Bristol earlier in the year. The film is out now and has been getting good reviews – it is the **Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**.

AND DON'T FORGET

We really do need more help – offers please to [volunteers@mvbalmoral.com](mailto:volunteers@mvbalmoral.com)

Issued on behalf of MV Balmoral Fund Limited by Dick Clague [media@mvbalmoral.com](mailto:media@mvbalmoral.com)

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