



## SUPPORTER UPDATE: JUNE 2018

Dear Supporters

Thank you for signing up to continue receiving MV Balmoral UPDATE! News from MV Balmoral Fund Limited. If you have any friends interested and who haven't signed up please feel free to circulate this edition to them and if they would like to have their own copies in future they can [SIGN UP HERE](#) or via our website

### MV Balmoral

Since the end of last season MV Balmoral has been at her "winter berth" outside the "M Shed Museum" in Bristol. We had anticipated moving the ship to make room for planned summer activities in the harbour by mid May and she was all crewed up and systems fully tested to move under her own power within the inner harbour - but arrangements for an alternative berth could not be finalised on terms acceptable to the charity. In preparation for the move all on-board activities had been cancelled, cutting off a vital income stream for the charity.

Meanwhile MV Balmoral basked in the sunshine outside M Shed (*see photo below of MVBFL Members on board*) and negotiations continue to find an alternative berth accessible to the public, so that on-board activities can resume. This will both help the ship to cover her costs and even more importantly we can get on with developing community and educational links which are absolutely critical to enable us to have a chance to obtain the funding without which MV Balmoral is unlikely to carry passengers again. We are particularly grateful for the support we have received from National Historic Ships (UK) and the local MP in our on-going discussions on the important part which MV Balmoral plays in the maritime heritage of Bristol City and Harbour - **the port of registration on her stern.**



If we have to move MV Balmoral outside the Floating Harbour we lose the opportunity to continue this vital development work as well as income generating opportunities. Equally the costs of any more distant move become greater as the vessel has to be "readied for sea", and safety equipment re-installed or re-certified. Whilst this has been a routine part of the ship's pre-season life to enable her to return to revenue earning service, any such move at this stage would be a drain on the funds of the charity. If it had to become an annual exercise, with the ship returning to Bristol each winter, the long term viability of the charity, and therefore MV Balmoral herself could be in doubt. We had hoped this might have been resolved by now, we hope it may still be resolved very shortly, but there is no certainty which is making forward planning very difficult.

### At the AGM

- At our recent AGM it was made clear by several speakers that we are an under-resourced young charity and until/unless we can expand our active volunteer base at all levels it will be very difficult to develop the wider charitable activities needed to attract funding to move the MV Balmoral project forward.
- The Memorabilia Auction raised £600.01 with the P&A Campbell "White Funnel Fleet" sauce boat realising £105.01 - not bad for an item bought in a Penarth Charity shop for a few pounds many years ago by Peter Havard.

## Developing the Charity

The outcome of current discussions about a berth for the ship is fundamental to the direction of the charity in the next few years and, depending on outcomes, we may need to review how we work at every level. As you will see from the above our future depends on being able to develop the charity itself - owning, maintaining and sailing MV Balmoral is not enough (although it almost overwhelms us at times!). There will be a lot more things that need doing - some administrative - some net-working and many of these can be done from home. Sometimes with the small all-volunteer team we have, it is easier to do the job yourself than show someone else how to do it - but that leads to overload and some jobs not getting done - so we need to smarten up.

Given the changing circumstances we now face, we really need to take stock of the skills we can muster between us and what our members and supporters are particularly interested in. Could we please ask you to have a look at the short questionnaire we have just put on our website [\(CLICK HERE\)](#) Hopefully this will help us see where we can help each other - and hopefully identify someone who might help us sort out the results - yes we are that under-resourced. Some of you who you signed up to receive these UPDATES! had the option to indicate areas of interest but owing to human error (we are short of the right skills) most of you were not given that option - so it would help us greatly if everyone could please look at the form - [\(CLICK HERE\)](#) and complete it if you think you could help in any way.

## Local activities.

### BRISTOL

Obviously when MV Balmoral is accessible in Bristol she provides a great focus for local activities - albeit what we can do has been limited by the level of volunteer help available. Until the berthing issues are resolved we cannot progress this.

### NORTH WALES - MENAI STRAITS REUNION SAILING

The Irish Sea MV Balmoral Volunteer team are planning a "Menai Straits Reunion Sailing" on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - with Emrys Jones - the Menai Straits pilot without whom MV Balmoral cannot sail in those waters. This will be on Emrys' own classic local cruise vessel "Queen of the Sea" (built in the late 1930s) and will include stops at some of the harbours and piers that even MV Balmoral could never reach. We can take up to 70 passengers for this rarely offered trip which will start from Caernarfon about 10.00 and return around 18.00. Cost is likely to be about £30 which represents fantastic value for money in comparison with local 2 hour trips which sell for £20 ...and if enough come it will make a good contribution to MVBFL funds.



*If you are at all interested in this trip can you please let us know as soon as possible using the form on our website [\(CLICK HERE\)](#) or e-mail [volunteers@mvbalmoral.com](mailto:volunteers@mvbalmoral.com) with an indication of how many seats you might want. We need to know by the end of June that we have enough people who are interested and we will then finalise arrangements and contact those interested with booking details.*

### LUNDY ISLAND - CHURCH OF ST. HELENS ANNUAL SERVICE - SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE.



As MV BALMORAL is out of service this year we cannot offer a sailing for this service to celebrate the recently completed restoration of this unique church. The island & church have a long-standing association with pleasure steamers and this year the Bishop of Exeter will be taking the service during the afternoon.

Past passengers may like to know that there is a long day excursion sailing on MS Oldenburg from Bideford at 8.00am back at 7.00pm. Bookings for the trip which is not organised by MVBFL can be made with the Lundy Office on 01271 863636 - Adult Return = £36.

Issued by Dick Clague - [media@mvbalmoral.com](mailto:media@mvbalmoral.com) on behalf of MV Balmoral Fund Limited - 12 June 2018

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