



SCANNER

NEWSLETTER of the SOLENT MARITIME SOCIETY

No. 675

October 2025

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HAPPY 56th BIRTHDAY SOLENT MARITIME

October 1969 – Another year has passed, and another chapter in society's history has been written. Despite facing ups and downs this year, we can hope to continue growing and thriving in our current form.

Future Meetings;

November 25th - Mike Lennon - Eastern Mediterranean Shipping.

December 16th - A.G.M & Andy Skarstein - Solent Shipping Review 2025.

2026

January 27th - Martyn Davies - Continued views from the Ferry.

February 23rd - Mervyn Rowlinson - life of U-Boat Commander, Julius Fritz Lemp.

March 31st - ***Members Evening; Alternative Transport, Trains, Planes & More!***

April 28th - Richard Jolliffe - Hamburg and the Elbe.

May 28th - Chris Dorman - Round the Isle of Wight on the Waverley 2025.

June 30th - ***Members Evening; Red Funnel, evening cruise departure 18.00pm.***



*In Celebration of 56 years here is a throwback to a group photo in 2010, 4 Sept - Flandria dock tour, Antwerp.
Photo: John Davidson.*



DC OSTEND - ex Cemex SAND HARRIER leaving Crown Wharf to Pot Bank, 17th. Photo: David Hornsby



MILOS - 8th October, seen moored at the Fawley oil jetty.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe



ALKEA - also moored at the Fawley jetty in October.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe

CRUISE SHIP NEWS - OCTOBER

- **VIRGIN VOYAGES** - Virgin is to drop Portsmouth as its U.K. based port from 2027. This news come as a bit of a shock, as previously reported, Portsmouth is the only port in the world to receive all four ships. However Virgin will now focus on fly-cruise to make Eastern Europe ports more accessible for their 'sailors'.
- **MSC MERAVIGLIA** - Will sail from Southampton between May and October 2027, offering 19 cruises ranging from six to fourteen nights. *MSC Virtuosa* will complete her ex-UK season next year and then move to Barcelona for summer 2027. In winter 2026/27, *MSC Preziosa* will replace *MSC Poesia* in Southampton.
- **MARINER OF THE SEAS** - will be based in Southampton for the first time in 2027. The Royal Caribbean ship will sail a range of two- to nine-night itineraries including the Norwegian fjords, Porto, Copenhagen and Seville.



MSC CALISTA II - seen departing Southampton, built in 2005.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe



DC OSTEND - another view inbound Southampton water to Itchen river.

Photo: David Hornsby

[CRUISE SHIPS IN FOCUS](#) - Current inactive Cruise Ships! - Adam Ratcliffe

This month's cruise focus is inactive cruise ships searching for a new home. Currently, there are a few inactive cruise ships still in service, listed below in age order. These ships are waiting for an operator or will eventually be scrapped. In the notation box, **I've listed the last company operator first, and then a brief description of the vessel's current status.** I hope this helps those who keep records, or simply ensures theirs are in order.

<i>Ship Name</i>	<i>Built</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Notes</i>
FUNCHAL	1961	9,563gt	16	524	153	Ex Funchal (Portuscale Cruises) 2013-2015 Brought by Brock Pierce US businessman to convert to hotel ship in 2021 for €1.6million euro. LAID UP, Lisbon 2015/6-present.
OCEAN MAJESTY	1965	10,417gt	18	540	135	Ex Ocean Majesty (Hansa Touristik) 2013-2023 Still owned by Majestic International Cruises. Retired in 2023, and since then she's been used as asylum seeker accommodation in Velsen-Noord, Netherlands . The contract was due to end in August 2025, but a deal extension was recently signed to keep the vessel until July 1, 2026. The new contract includes another extension option, which could see the ship continuing to serve as floating accommodations through December 31, 2026.
EXPEDITION	1972	6,334gt	17	134	105	Ex Expedition (GAP Adventures) 2008-2025 Although no official announcements about the future (there are rumours she may be sold to breakers). She is currently laid up alongside " <i>Serenissima</i> ", Poland. So there is a possibility that the ex-Dover-Boulogne ferry may be acquired by Vestland Classics for potential Baltic and Arctic-Svalbard cruises. Wait and see.....
AEGEAN ODYSSEY	1973	11,906gt	18	380	140	Ex Aegean Odyssey (Road Scholar) 2020-2022 Charter to RoadScholar terminated in 2022 due to engine trouble. Announced in May 2025 that new Greek start up 'Grand Odyssey Cruises' would operate her starting in July. However no sign of operation as of yet. LAID UP - Piraeus, Greece, 2022-present.
BERLIN OCEANIS	1981	9,750gt	18	462	126	Ex Berlin (FTI Cruises) 2012-2020 FTI Cruises ceased operations in 2020 due to the pressure of covid. The ship was sold to become a private yacht! However after being remanded <i>Dream Princess</i> court cases with Princess Cruises finally put this into administration. A new company Berlin Capital Group have started to convert her into a casino for cruises out of Penang, Malaysia. Currently there seems to be little activity since May! Currently in Panang, Malaysia.
MINERVA	1989	12,892gt	15	350	113	Ex Minerva (Swan Hellenic) 2008-2017 Inactive since the fall of All Leisure Group in 2017. Plans to convert her into a private yacht came to nothing. There was a rumour she would operate for Hansa Touristik however they decided to shut down. LAID UP - Elefsis, Greece, 2017-present.
VIDANTAWORLDS ELEGANT	1990	15,343gt	18	556	150	Ex Voyager (Voyages of Discovery) 2012-2017 Currently waiting to start operations in Genoa, Italy. Has been laid up since being sold and has had three different names in this time. She has been majorly overhauled and marketed as a luxury yacht. LAID UP - Mazatlan, Mexico 2017-2025
MANTRA	1990	4,203gt	16	100	88	Ex Silver Galapagos (Silversea Expeditions) 2013-2021 Built as Renaissance Three, & sold after Silversea took delivery of Silver Origin, 2021. LAID UP, Panama 2021-present.
MAJESTY OF THE OCEANS	1992	74,941gt	22	2,767	270	Ex Majesty of the Seas (Royal Caribbean Int.) 1992-2020 Part of the SeaJets fleet that got purchased during the pandemic. LAID UP - Piraeus & Elefsis, Greece, 2020-present.
AEGEAN MAJESTY	1996	57,092gt	21	1,350	219	Ex Veendam (Holland America Line) 1996-2020 Sold by Carnival Corporation as part of their cull on unwanted tonnage, to SeaJets. She has remained laid up ever since. LAID UP - Aigio, Greece, 2020-present.
CHINESE TAISHAN	2000	24,427gt	30	927	181	Ex Chinese Taishan (Bohai Ferry Company) 2014-2020 Has been out of service since the pandemic, however little information is available about the current status of the ship.
QUEEN OF THE OCEANS	2000	77,499gt	22	2,272	261	Ex Oceana (P&O Cruises) 2002-2020 Sold by Carnival Corporation as part of their cull on unwanted tonnage, to SeaJets. She has remained laid up ever since. LAID UP - Piraeus & Elefsis, Greece, 2020-present.
BLUE DREAM STAR	2001	24,318gt	30	1,053	180	Ex Glory Sea (Diamond Cruises International) 2016-2020 Like her sister little information to say if she's active or not!
GODDESS OF THE NIGHT	2003	102,784gt	20	2,718	272	Ex Costa Magica (SeaJets) 2023-2024 SeaJets having brought the ship from Costa Cruises, renamed her Goddess of the Night for their 'Neoynx Cruises' brand. Unfortunately there was not enough bookings to keep her active. LAID UP - Elefsis, Greece, 2024-present.
GOLDEN HORIZON	2021	8,770gt	16	272	162	Ex Golden Horizon (Tradewind Voyages) 2021 The ship was ordered as Flying Clipper but due to a dispute with the shipyard she was never delivered to Star Clippers. Tradewind Voyages chartered her from the builders but the Croatian company that owned her has gone into administration. LAID UP - Split, Croatia 2021-present.

(F) Funnels, (S) Speed (knots), (P) Passengers, (L) Length.

Southampton OCTOBER Visitors;

CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS

MSC PREZISOA [7], QUEEN ANNE [8, 12, 26], CELEBRITY APEX [8, 19], REGAL PRINCESS [8], NORWEGIAN STAR [10, 22], BOREALIS [10, 20], ARVIA [11, 24], EMERALD PRINCESS [11], INDEPENDENCE OF THE SEAS [11, 16], VENTURA [11, 25], AIDA PERLA [13], MEIN SCHIFF 3 [14], SKY PRINCESS [14, 19], MSC POESIA [16, 24, 31], MSC VIRTUOSA [16, 19, 25], BRITANNIA [17, 31], ARCADIA [19, 26, 29], NORWEGIAN PRIMA [20], AIDA PRIMA [21], AURORA [21], SILVER DAWN [21], IONA [23, 25], QUEEN MARY 2 [24], QUEEN VICTORIA [24], DISNEY FANTASY [31]

Portsmouth OCTOBER Visitors;

SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY [1, 15, 30], VIKING VELA [2], VIKING SATURN [3], VIKING NEPTUNE [11], SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE [12], ARTANIA [17, 21], EUROPA [28].

*****Maiden Call***

Cowes; HANSEATIC NATURE [8] (I believe is a maiden call, not sure)



LIGHTNING CLIPPER - (no name on her, but she is showing on AIS). An electric cargo ferry for Thames Clippers for service on the Thames carrying light freight into the centre of London. Photo: Chris Brooks



CAPTAIN CONSTANTIN DUMITRESCU ex HMS PEMBROKE departing Portsmouth after repairs bound for the Black sea via VIGO and Cartagena. Photo: Mike Lennon



HAMBURG - German Frigate at 102 berth on 24th October.

Photo: Chris Brooks



DEO VOLENTE - inward bound for berth 36 to load yachts, bound from Rotterdam.

Photo: Chris Brooks



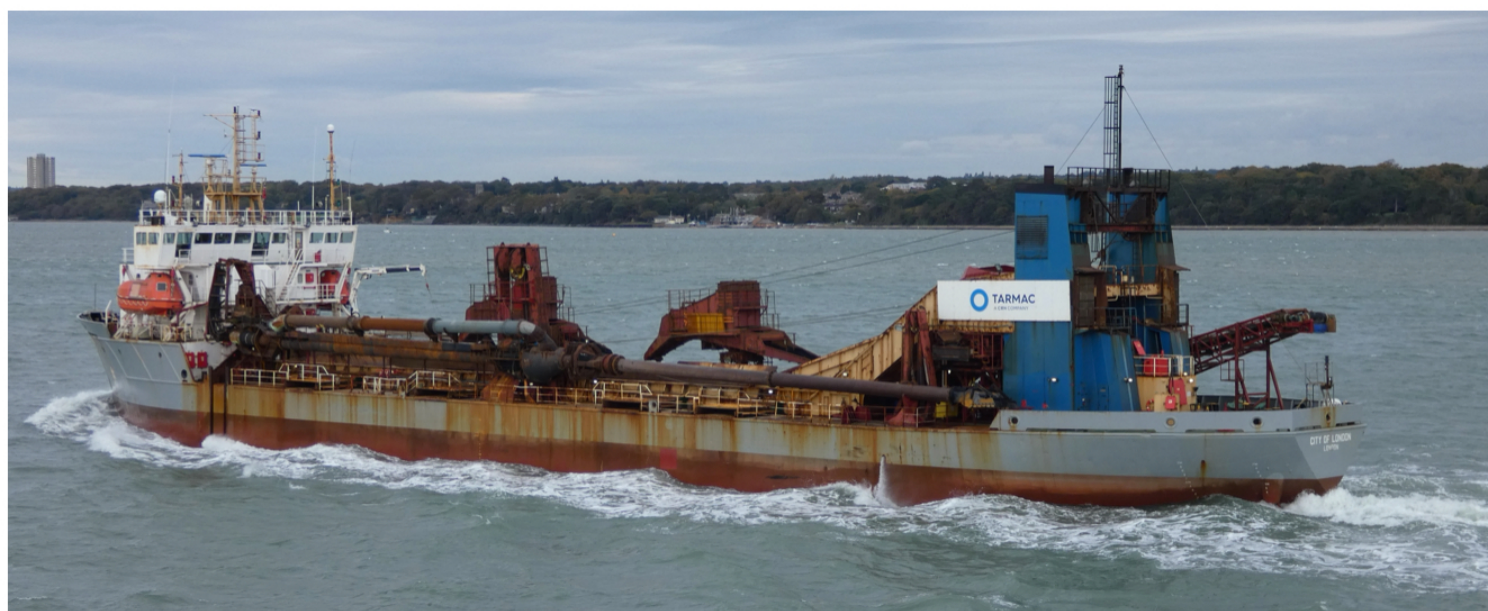
EAST COAST - at Fawley on the 7th October.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe



ATHINA - on Esso 2, arrived at Nab anchorage from Setubal in Portugal.

Photo: David Hornsby



CITY OF LONDON heading in for Itchen Wharf on the 23rd.

Photo: David Hornsby



VS LEIA - arrived from Ijmuiden, built 2006 in Guangzhou shipyard.

Photo: David Hornsby



SVEND - departing Portsmouth on the 14th, entered service in September last month! Photo: Mike Lennon

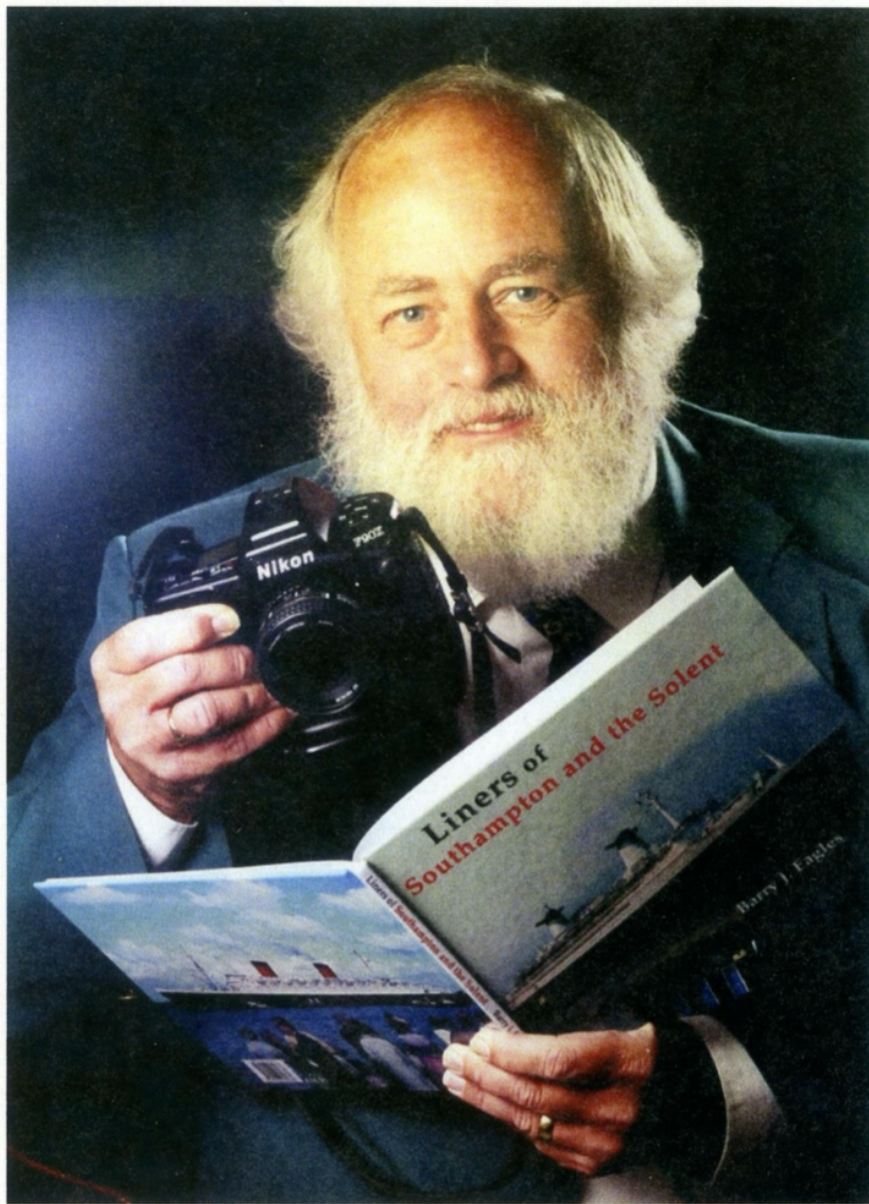


SEASPAN OCEANIA - in the Solent bound for SCT1 berth, arriving from Tangier Med. Photo: Chris Brooks



GRANDE CAMEROON inward bound for 102 berth, having arrived from Bremerhaven. Photo: Chris Brooks

A Service of Celebration for the
Life of



Barry James Eagles

25th May 1945 – 24th September 2025

King's Court Masonic Centre
Tuesday 21st October 2025, 11:30am