



SCANNER

The Newsletter of the Solent Maritime Society

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Vice Chairman: *Andrew Blackburn*

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Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088504665729>

No. 679

February 2026

Future Meetings;

March 24th - *Members Evening; Alternative Transport, Trains, Planes & More!*

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

May 26th - *Chris Dorman - Panama Canal + More!*

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

July 28th - *Paul Gosling - Even more Gadabouting.*

August 25th - *Mike Lennon - Title, TBC.*

September 29th - *Guest Speaker; William Mayes - TBC.*

October 27th - *Members Evening; Decades on... 2016, 2006, 1996, 1986, 1976 etc.*

SOCIETY TRIP TO BRISTOL - 2026

We have arranged a coach trip to **BRISTOL** to visit the **ss GREAT BRITAIN** and **mv BALMORAL** or for non-shipping to visit the City sights, such as cathedral, shopping or M Shed museum. We will be using a 34 seater coach supplied by Angela Holidays.

The Coach will pick-up passengers at either 08.00am at **SOUTHAMPTON CENOTAPH** or 08.15am at **NORTHLANDS ROAD /CEMETERY ROAD**. Free Saturday parking near latter available in Westwood Road or Winn Road.

The coach will then proceed to **BRISTOL** (about 2½ hours) arriving about 11am. Before visiting the **ss GREAT BRITAIN**, passengers can then be dropped off adjoining the **M Shed museum** (café with toilets), which is also within walking distance of the Cathedral (0.5 miles), the Broadmead shopping centre (0.8 miles) and Cabot shopping centre (1.1 miles).

We then plan to visit the former Red Funnel ferry **mv BALMORAL** which is under restoration and will be having a public open day in the Floating Harbour near the M Shed Museum. Visitors will be expected to make a donation to the Balmoral restoration funds.

The public **Bristol Ferry boats** will be operating every 40 minutes in the Floating Harbour. A full trip round the Floating Harbour as far as Temple Meads station and return takes 80 minutes. The ferry can also be used to get closer to the shopping area. Prices are based on time aboard with a Day Ticket costing £14. It is also probable that the **Bristol Harbour railway** will be operating. Any costs for these items or other entrance fees at individuals own personal expense.

The coach will leave at 5pm prompt for the return journey to the same Southampton drop off points.

MORE DETAILS AND THE FORM TO FILL IN SHOULD YOU WISH TO COME IS ATTACHED ON THE EMAIL.



SOLENT SHIPPING NEWS - FEBRUARY

- **CAESAREA TRADER** - All 23 crew members and the one passenger on board the DFDS freight ferry are safe following a major fire. The ship was sailing from St Helier in Jersey to Portsmouth when a fire started in the engine room on Monday (9 February). A Coastguard search and rescue helicopter was sent out to undertake thermal imaging of the vessel, alongside an RNLI lifeboat from Bembridge and tug boats from Portsmouth. The crew had not been advised to abandon ship and the ferry was anchored east of Shanklin, off the Isle of Wight.
- There's was no official word yet regarding the fate of the CAESAREA TRADER, which has been resting at Portsmouth International Port Berth 1 since she was towed there a fortnight ago, after a crippling engine room fire off the Isle of Wight. The chartered ARROW is covering her schedule for the foreseeable future. DFDS will be glad they had her on standby. The STENA VINGA is due to have her annual overhaul in the spring and her schedule will be covered by the spare CÔTE D' ALBÂTRE from Wednesday 15/4/26 to Wednesday 22/4/26. The Côte d'Albâtre is currently laid up for the winter in Dieppe's inner docks. She finally left Portsmouth International Port, February 25th bound for the Fayard Shipyard in Mukebo, Denmark.

CRUISE SHIP NEWS - FEBRUARY

- **ORIANA** (ii) - the 1995 built ORIANA may be finding a new life after spending almost six years on the Chinese market under the name PIANO LAND for Astro Ocean Cruises. She could be returning to Europe under the name BUENAVISTA for a new start up, headed up by ex Pullmantur employees who see a gap in the market for Spanish speaking families.
- **ATLAS OCEAN VOYAGES** has placed an order for a luxury ice-strengthened expedition sailing yacht which will use the French SolidSail technology. Named the ATLAS ADVENTURE she has replaced the two ships that was to be ordered for Atlas in the current WORLD class ships that currently total five ships over two brands.
- **ALASKAN DREAM CRUISES** - Unfortunately news came this month that one of the last few remaining main stream US 'coastal cruise' companies has decided to close down its operations. The company cited "insurmountable financial pressures" as the reason for the shutdown. These pressures included rising operational costs, competitive pressure, and a challenging post-pandemic recovery. In what it labeled a "heartfelt farewell," the company wrote on it's website: "Since 2011, Alaskan Dream Cruises has had the privilege of sharing the wonders of Alaska". Alaskan Dream Cruises operated four ships: *Chichagof Dream, Baranof Dream, Admiralty Dream, and Alaskan Dream.*
- **AVORA RESIDENCES** - it seems another Residential start-up could be planning entering the market in January 2028, the question going round is will the ship be the SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR. An alliance with Villa Vie Residences was announced on 3rd February. Both will continue to operate independently, maintaining separate ownership structures, management teams, and brand positioning. *"We recognize that many future Lumina owners are eager to begin traveling the world by sea immediately,"* said Kathy Villalba, CEO of Villa Vie Residences. *"The opportunity to spend time aboard Odyssey allows residents to begin living the residential-at-sea lifestyle right away, while they prepare for Lumina's debut."* In a milestone moment for both brands, Lumina residence purchasers traveling aboard Odyssey will have the opportunity to transition directly to Lumina when the two vessels meet for the first time during a planned celebratory event in Miami in late January 2028.

Southampton FEBRUARY Visitors;

AIDA NOVA [5, 19], MSC POESIA [6, 13], VENTURA [7, 27], IONA [7, 14, 21, 28], QUEEN VICTORIA [8, 22], BALMORAL [14, 19]

CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS

TOTAL CALLS: 14 TOTAL SHIPS: 6

Portsmouth FEBRUARY Visitors;

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE [4, 19], SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY [6, 22]

TOTAL CALLS: 4 TOTAL SHIPS: 2

*****Maiden Call***



APL FULLERTON - 17.02.2026 near Hythe from Dunkirk for SCT1-2

Photo: Richard Jolliffe



APL SINGAPURA - 17.02.26 sister ship of APL Fullerton at SCT5.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe



THRUXTON - passing Calshot, inbound on 14th for 105 berth from Valencia.

Photo: Chris Brooks



CMA CGM GEMINI - inward bound in the Solent for SCT5 berth on 14th.

Photo: Chris Brooks





AICC FENGHUANG - arriving on the 6th, on her maiden arrival into the port.

Photo: Chris Brooks



BYD JINAN - 2025 built, which had departed from Marchwood SGL3 on the 6th.

Photo: Chris Brooks



AICC FENGHUANG - she departed on 7th bound for Bremerhaven

Photo: Chris Brooks

There was a bit of interest last month over Richard's photo of the ENRICO COSTA, so I thought we'd make a feature of her history this month with some photos kindly supplied by Chris Bancroft.



Photos: Chris Bancroft.

<i>Ship Name</i>	<i>Owner / Operator</i>	<i>In Service</i>	<i>Notes</i>
PROVENCE	<i>Soc Générale de Transports Maritimes</i>	(1951-1965)	Built on the River Tyne for services in South America.
ENRICO C.	<i>Costa Line / Cruises</i>	(1965-1987)	In 1962 Costa Line chartered the PROVENCE until they purchased her in 1965.
ENRICO COSTA	<i>Costa Cruises</i>	(1987-1994)	Renamed in 1987 as part of a rebrand sold just before the Carnival takeover in 1997.
SYMPHONY	<i>StarLauro Crociere</i>	(1994-1995)	In 1995 StarLauro was renamed MSC Cruises after being owned by the Mediterranean Shipping Company since 1987.
	<i>MSC Cruises</i>	(1995-2000)	Cruised mainly in the Mediterranean replaced by bigger tonnage that they still have!
AEGEAN SPIRIT	<i>Golden Sun Cruises</i>	(2000-2001)	Chartered by Cruise holding Ltd. A Greek company based in Athens and sub-chartered.
OCEAN GLORY 1	<i>Festive Holidays / TravelScope / The Cruise Collection</i>	(2001)	After Golden Sun Cruises she was chartered to companies such as TravelScope and Festive Holidays.
CLASSICA	<i>Cruise Holdings Ltd.</i>	(2001)	After being arrested in Dover the ship was sold. Sent to scrap arrived at Alang on 4th November 2001.

Richard's Memory Box - February.



On 5th & 6th May 2013 there was a vintage ship display at the Southampton Maritime Festival which also had the Ocean Terminal as an exhibition hall, with displays telling the story of the city's maritime legacy. I remember it well as it was the first warm day for months. I visited most of the vessels on the 6th, but yacht AMAZON was anchored nearby. Other vintage vessels present were BLUE BIRD OF CHELSEA, which was originally Malcolm Cambell's Blue Bird yacht, tug CHALLENGE, fast craft HSL 102, fast craft ML 1387 - MEDUSA and lifeboat MICHAEL STEPHEN'S.

AMAZON, is a 102-foot screw schooner and former steam yacht. Built 1885 at the private Arrow Yard of Tankerville Chamberlayne at Northam Southampton. In 2011 was listed as one of the world's Top 40 Classic Yachts and was the oldest vessel honoured. In 1897 was sold to a French yachtsman and was based at Saint Malo as ARMORICAIN until 1900, when she returned to British ownership.

Converted to diesel in 1937. In WW2 used as a houseboat. The actor Arthur Lowe bought her as a houseboat in 1968 and made her ready for sea again in 1971. This TV star passed away in 1982. I saw her many times alongside at East Cowes. After some time as a private yacht, she then pursued a successful charter business in the 1980s, before going to northern Scotland in 1990. In 1997 she went to Malta, where her new owners used her for cruising in the Mediterranean. In 2009 crossed the Atlantic Ocean via the Cape Verde Islands and travelled in the Caribbean and to Bermuda. In May 2012 she visited Bristol before sailing to London.

Later at the Ramsgate Maritime Museum until late June, then at Shoreham then at Cowes. She was in St Malo, France in late July 2012 and in August and September 2012 the Channel Islands. She was in Bristol during the winter of 2012 and in 2013 at the Southampton Maritime Festival. Later Gloucester then Malta. A really lovely looking vessel. It is a pity that the Maritime Festival was not repeated.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe.



WILSON HARRIER - seen at 107 berth from Tees on the 17th February.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe



GRANDE COSTA D'AVORIO - arriving 17th off Hythe bound for 105 berth.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe

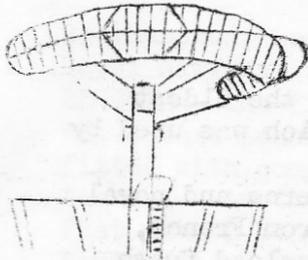


KOMOREBI - seen on the 17th berth 2 at Fawley.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 56 YEARS AGO!



SCANNER

NEWSLETTER

OF

SOLENT MARITIME SOCIETY

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FUTURE MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 24th. - 7.30p.m. - The Lounge, Missions to Seamen,
Queen's Terrace, Southampton.

FILM SHOW - Two films from Union Castle Line - "A Cruise on the
Reina del Mar" and "The Friendly Ship".

Three films from British Railways - "A Dream of Norway",
"Coasts of Clyde" and "Round the Isle of Wight".

MARCH 24th. - 7.30p.m. - Our Chairman, Mr. Bob Brown will give an
illustrated talk on "Ship Wrecks".

APRIL 28th. - 7.30p.m. - "Old Timers Evening". Several members have
photographs of old ships which they are invited to bring along
for showing through an epidiascope, which will be available for
the evening.

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KEEP A LOOK-OUT FOR THESE.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT 1944/18920g.t. due Southampton 6th/8th March - on
world cruise. Formerly LEILANI 61, ex LAGUARDIA 56, ex GENERAL W.P. RICHARDSON 49.
At present owned by American President Lines but has been sold to Chandris Group.

SHOTA RUSTAVELI 1968/19861g.t. U.S.S.R. due Southampton 21st February
ex Sydney.

ATLANTIC CINDERELLA - new container ship for Atlantic Container Line - due
last week of February. Owned by Wallenius Bremen (West German).

ATLANTIC CONVEYOR -(sister ship to ATLANTIC CAUSEWAY)- now being completed
by Swan Hunter on Tyne - due during first or second week of March.

ESSO SCOTIA 127,158 g.t. 250,000 deadweight tons - due Fawley 20th February.

KING AGAMEMNON - Due Fawley 24th February. 44,867g.t., 83,937 deadweight.
Built in Japan 1966. Owned by Mycenanean Shipping Co.Ltd., Liberia.

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