



Ullswater 'Steamers' carry first passengers after floods

Ullswater 'Steamers' vessel Lady Dorothy carried the Lake District attraction's first passengers yesterday (14 January) after six week layoff in the aftermath of storms 'Desmond, Eva and Frank'.

Fortunately 'Steamers' got off relatively lightly at the hands of 'Desmond, Eva and Frank', with some damage caused to the stern of Lady Wakefield, flood damage to facilities and the carpark at Glenridding, minor damage to Pooley Bridge Pier and Pier House, and difficulty accessing Howtown due to high lake levels.

So after an eventful six weeks Dorothy and her crew set off from Glenridding jetty at 09.45am prompt, with a complement of 13 passengers, some locals out walking, some on holiday in the area keen to explore more of the Valley and some simply wanting to take to the water. Throughout the day over 100 passengers made use of Dorothy as she plied between Glenridding and Howtown.

Amongst the first passengers to use the service were Mike and Barbara Taylor, from Kendal. Mike said: "It's a brilliant day, it's sunny; bit of snow on the ground. We're heading off from Glenridding through to Howtown, then we're going to walk down to Martindale and back eventually to the Patterdale, where we're staying for the night."

Another passenger Pamela Marriott, from Doncaster, said: "We just love it here you know, it's such a shame to see all the devastation. We walked out the other way yesterday and to see all the stones down and it's sad, sad for the people as well, but it won't stop us coming, we'll still be here!"

Ullswater 'Steamers' is an important link locally, connecting some of the most famous and iconic walking routes in the UK, and as such is a vital part of the local tourism infrastructure.

As a result it was really important to the team at 'Steamers' to get our services up and running again as quickly as possible. To show the outside world that the area was open for business and keen to welcome people back to explore this beautiful lake and valley, despite all that has been thrown at the area by the recent storms.

Rachel Bell, Marketing Manager with Ullswater 'Steamers', said: "It's great to see people making the effort to come out and sail with us on our first day back after the

recent storms. It's really important for our local communities that we get the message out there that the Ullswater Valley is open for business. We are offering our full scheduled winter service, with sailings to Glenridding, Howtown, Aira and Pooley Bridge. It's vital that we get the entire valley back to normal as quickly as possible, we want to encourage people to use our services, stay locally and enjoy all this beautiful area has to offer. It's vital that we get the entire valley back to normal as quickly as possible."

For further information about events and cruises with Ullswater Steamers please visit: www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1: Tour groups wishing to access 'Steamers' sailings from Pooley Bridge can still do so at the normal drop off point at Pooley Bridge Pier, which is totally operational. It should be noted that access to refreshment facilities in the Village of Pooley Bridge is currently not possible, as a result we are recommending tour groups use the following facilities as alternatives in the interim, for the northern end of Ullswater - Dalemmain and Rheged. Those seeking refreshments at the southern end of Ullswater should note Glenridding is open as usual.

2: For additional information or to arrange a press trip please contact Greg Stephenson on 01539 825060 or e-mail gstephenson@cumbriatourism.org