

Media Call: 15 July 2016



MEDIA CALL: Ullswater 'Steamers' invites you to join M.V Lady Wakefield as she returns to the family fleet

Ullswater 'Steamers' is delighted to announce that M.V Lady Wakefield will return to Ullswater to re-join her sister ships M.V Lady Dorothy, M.V Western Belle, M.Y Raven and M.Y Lady of the Lake on **Friday 15th July 2016 at 9.30am**, and they would like you to join them on the significant journey that will once again complete Ullswater 'Steamers' fleet of vessels.

Join Ullswater 'Steamers' at Waterside, near Pooley Bridge to watch Lady Wakefield return to the water. You can film and photograph from the outside as we cannot board her. She will then sail down to Glenridding (arrive approx. 10.30am) for final preps before she joins the rest of the fleet week commencing 18th July.

During the height of Storm Desmond M.V Lady Wakefield snapped three mooring ropes before being rescued by Patterdale Mountain Rescue and 'Steamers' skippers who managed to board and steer her out of danger before the last rope gave way under the strain of the sheer volume of water escaping into the river Eamont.

After five months of being beached on neighbouring farmland then lifted to safety by marine salvage agents from Titan & Ardent in Holland, so vital repairs could be made the historic vessel she is finally ready to join her sister ships.

Rachel Bell, Marketing Manager with Ullswater Steamers, said:

“This is such a significant day for ‘Steamers’ and I am absolutely delighted that M.V Lady Wakefield has returned to her sister ships where she belongs. She plays such an important role in the fleet and has been desperately missed. We are looking forward to operating at full capacity once again.”

M.V Lady Wakefield was built in 1949 in Dartmouth by the River Dart Steamboat Co. Ltd, she worked on the River Dart and the Plymouth Sound before her arrival at Ullswater in 2007 where she was fully restored and renamed by HRH Princess Alexandra. She had previously been known as 'Berry Castle', 'Golden Cormorant' and 'Totnes Castle'. Her sister ship 'Seymour Castle' previously known as 'Devon Belle', went to Dunkirk but never made it to the beaches as part of the Little Ships evacuation in 1940, known in history as Operation Dynamo.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

- 1. To confirm your attendance please contact Cumbria Tourism Press Office, pressoffice@cumbriatourism.org, 01539 825019**
- 2. Photo opportunity can also be arranged at Glenridding Pier should you wish to see Lady Wakefield from there.**
- 3. Directions to Waterside:**

For more information about Ullswater Steamers visit:

Web: www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ullswatersteamers

Twitter: @UllswaterSteam