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- Lake District heritage attraction makes history



Spectacular Flotilla Celebrates Ullswater 'Steamers' Double Anniversary

Making history with an event to remember, Ullswater 'Steamers' in the Lake District celebrated the 160th Anniversary of the first steamer on the lake and the 130th birthday of M.Y Raven, with a spectacular mass Flotilla on the evening of 16 July 2019. All five boats in the heritage fleet assembled at 8pm in the Howtown Bay area of the lake for the first time ever.



It was a sight to behold as three of the 'Steamers' travelled up in convoy from the south of the lake to meet the other two boats coming from the north at Howtown Bay. Here they gracefully glided into a circular formation and performed several circuits before peeling off in an elegant choreographed move that would rival a corps de ballet.

With live music and a convivial atmosphere aboard birthday boat **Raven** the invited guests enjoying the cruise included descendants of **Winifred Parkin**, the 6 year old girl who launched Raven back in 1889, representatives from the **Lake District National Park, Eden**

District Council, Cumbria Tourism and a wide range of local businesses. **Lady of the Lake** carried guests invited by the **Patterdale Mountain Rescue** whilst staff members of the **National Trust Aira Force** sailed on **Lady Dorothy**. Members of the public took part in the celebrations aboard **Lady Wakefield** for the popular *Fish & Chip Supper Cruise* and the *Gin Cruise* with **Lakes Distillery** on **Western Belle**.

Surrounded by members of the Wakefield family, Chairman of Lake District Estates **Peter Hensman** cut the cake aboard *Raven* as the boat headed back south towards Glenridding to conclude the evenings celebrations.

Mark Horton Manager Ullswater Steamers says, 'This was a momentous occasion and a celebration of what makes Ullswater 'Steamers' so special. The atmosphere on the boats was fantastic and it was a real pleasure to see our full fleet of boats assembled together in this way. I'd like to thank all of the 'Steamers' team for making it such a success. We were blessed with fantastic weather and throughout the day many passengers travelled with us, enjoying the stunning views and peaceful atmosphere which have been attracting visitors for over a century and a half.'



[ENDS]

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1. Ullswater 'Steamers' full fleet Flotilla assembled in Howtown Bay for the first time in history for a double celebration of milestones.

2. Ullswater 'Steamers' fleet meeting for the first time in Howtown Bay, looking up to the north end of lake.

Ullswater 'Steamers' is a family-owned business that has been operating in the tranquil Ullswater Valley since 1859. Today, the company provides a sustainable and environmentally friendly way of linking some of the most iconic walking routes and views in the Lake District National Park. Ullswater 'Steamers' has one of the largest heritage passenger vessel fleets in England, including the oldest working passenger vessel in the world, Lady of the Lake. In 2019 the 'Steamer's will celebrate the 160th anniversary of their first steamer on the water. The business's awards include Green at Heart Award, British Coach Tourism Award 2019 Heritage Railway, Gold for the 2018, Gold at CREA's 2015, 2014 GTBS Visit England award and winner of Cumbria Tourism's 2011 Sustainable Tourism award and 2016 Large Visitor Attraction of the Year award among many others. For more information about group offers and packages visit <https://www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk/groups/>