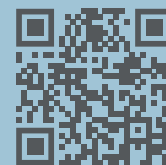


MAID OF THE LOCH NEWSLETTER

November 2022 Issue 40
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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

2022 has been our first full season since the end of Covid-19 – and what a season it has been!

Where to start?

Our “Ship on the Slip” attraction has been very well received by visitors from both near and far. In addition, our “Hard Hat Tours” continue to get rave reviews from all who visit. The key to our success has been, without a doubt, the quality of our volunteer guides. Their knowledge and banter make the tours that extra bit special. We cannot thank them enough for their commitment.

Progress with the “Maid’s” restoration has moved apace across the three main projects: hull, paddles, and painting. For those visiting recently, or watching on Facebook, the difference after blasting the hull, followed by the first coat of primer, is startlingly obvious. Again our volunteers have risen to the task, with the very kind donation of specialised paint from Jotun Marine. It represents the first step towards restoring the “Maid” to her original colours.

The restoration of the paddles is an example of the very best in collaboration. Our dedicated group of volunteer engineers have painstakingly dismantled both paddles. We had very welcome support from West of Scotland Engineers who pressed out the old bearings, Possilpark Shot Blasting who blasted and painted the paddle bearings, and Vantech Engineering who provided a variety of expertise throughout the season. This should result in fully restored paddle wheels in 2023. This is a particularly complex project and our grateful thanks goes out to all involved.

The extensive work on the hull has progressed very well, though disappointingly our contractor, Dales, were unable to complete the work as planned. We have stopped for the winter, which will allow us to reassess the scope and cost of work to be completed next year.

Thanks to our partners, Wild Highland, visitors can enjoy a cup of coffee and cake on the pier. This is without a doubt the best view of Loch Lomond!

It is the selfless support of volunteers, but equally the contributions from our contractors who donate and go



Starboard side of the ship with primer paint coat

the extra mile, that makes the prospect of the “Maid” sailing on Loch Lomond again come ever closer.

The Charity sends our thanks and best wishes to you all for the coming festive season and hope to see you again in 2023.

Iain Robertson, Chairman LLSC



The Hard Hat Tours have been popular this season.

WE ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING WINTER, but our volunteers will be working on the restoration project weekdays, when Hard Hat tours can be arranged in advance.

Please e-mail charli.summers@maidoftheloch.org if you wish to have a weekday tour.



RESTORATION UPDATE

WITH JIM MITCHELL, PROJECT DIRECTOR



Radius rods arriving in the Winch House

“Since the last edition things have moved on considerably and as we go from Autumn into Winter the focus has to be adjusted until the Spring.

The replating of the boiler room has passed the difficult part, with the new keel, side longitudinals, and frames all fully welded in place. The ship is now structurally safe, and work here has ceased for the Winter. Further work is now envisaged as new thinning has revealed itself, but this is clearly defined and will be underway again next year as funds allow. The quality of work done to date is superb, and is a credit to the Dales craftsmen who carried it out

Our other two major projects are proceeding apace, although the painting of the hull may have been beaten for now by the increasingly wet weather of autumn. However, the special coatings generously provided by Jötun can be applied at temperatures down to 0*, so we are hopeful!

Painting the funnel has been delayed due structural repairs needed to its internal frame, so it was decided to take the time to do it properly. That’s our mantra these days!

The undoubted ‘star’ job is the full restoration of both paddles. We now have all the new parts to hand, except some plastic bushes on back order, which should be with us late November. We have a special 25 square metre tented work area in front of the winch house, where the sixteen paddle floats are being assembled. This work should be completed by spring 2023.



Charles busy painting the paddle frame spacers and radius rods the lovely paddle steamer red colour

VOLUNTEER FOCUS

Robert Cudahy is one of the volunteers responsible for repairing the internal structural damage to the funnel by replacing some of the framework which supports the sheet aluminium panels. This requires modifying the existing panels to suit the new framework. Removal of some of the old rivets and replacing them with stainless steel dome headed bolts are part of the process. The panels will be re drilled to suit the internal support framework.

“I am a recently retired mechanical fitter with over 50 years in the oil and gas industry, working on many projects in the UK and overseas. I served an apprenticeship with Weir Pumps Ltd Glasgow, but left in the mid-80s to work for various companies on a contract basis. I re-joined Weirs in 2006 as a service engineer, working offshore and overseas.

I retired November 2021 and found that it is not as attractive as I thought! Apart from fishing Loch Lomond with friends, I found retirement rather boring. One day I discovered that the Maid was looking for volunteers with a mechanical background. This could be an opportunity, not only to contribute towards getting the ship sailing again, but to give me a sense of purpose in my retirement - probably one of the best decisions I have ever made! I’m able to use

my existing skills and have picked up a few new ones thanks to the different trades involved on the project. My advice to fellow retirees with similar background is to come down and enjoy the banter with a great team of volunteers, and help get this vessel sailing again!



Robert at work on the funnel



A GOOD DAY TO GO SAILING

As part of the Doors Open Days festival in West Dunbartonshire, and again as part of our Autumn programme, we welcomed members of the Knightswood Model Boat Company to show off their model sailing boats. Don Wilson, Vice President of the Club, encourages enthusiasts to join. "The Club meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at Knightswood Park pond on Archerhill Road. We also do RC trucks, tanks and helicopters. Members are knowledgeable, friendly and easy-going, so come and see us between 1pm - 4pm on Club days!"



Image: Don and Tony from the Knightswood club.
Photo from the Dumbarton Reporter.

THE SPOOKY SHIP

Our annual Halloween weekend was a huge success. Areas of the ghostly ship were open to the public with lots of spooky games and crafts on board including marshmallow ghosts on a string and a pumpkin bowling alley.

Thank you to everyone who came along.



Image: Captain One-Eyed Willy welcomes visitors on board PS Maid of the Loch



Image: Launch ceremony at Balloch Pier

NEW BEGINNINGS

Well done to our friends at Skylark IX Recovery Trust on launching the new skiffs recently! We were proud to be part of the big day on Loch Lomond, alongside our Maid. West Dunbartonshire Deputy Provost John Millar joined for the official launch of two St Ayles skiffs named 'Happy Days' and 'New Beginnings', which the project hopes will lead to the foundation of a new Dumbarton Rowing Club.

Read more about the project here
<https://skylarkix.co.uk/dumbarton-rowing-club-sets-sail/>



MICKEL LOUNGE TAKEOVER



Balloch Primary in the museum cabin studying collections



In the classroom with Philippa

Our recent collections project session with Balloch Primary School and artist and theatre maker Philippa Tomlin went well. Pupils from the local school are keen to explore our industrial and social history collections and come up with new interpretation that will be on display on board next year.

Additionally, We were delighted to receive a generous donation for this audience engagement project from our Patron Sir Boyd Tunnock.

ESCAPE TO THE MAID!

Presenter Sonali Shah and her production team from *Escape to the Country* were on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond recently and were impressed by the Maid. Jim Logan and Charli contributed and hopefully this will help raise our profile and get some support from viewers!

The programme will be aired next spring and we will keep you all posted.



Filming on the Maid - Jim Logan, Sonali and the production crew.



Charli being interviewed By presenter Sonali

MARITIME HERITAGE CONNECTIONS

The Loch Lomond Steamship Company are proud to announce that they are now members of the Maritime Heritage trust. An important organisation aiming to make more people aware, care for and share our rich maritime

heritage in all its dimensions— physical, cultural, social and environmental.

More information can be found on the website: <https://maritimeheritage.org.uk/>





CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS? LOOK NO FURTHER!

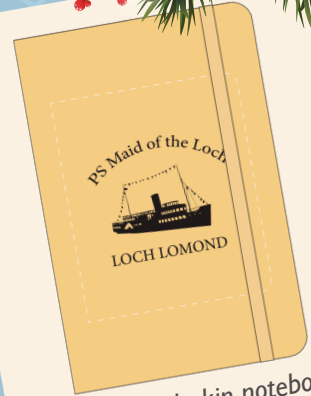
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New mugs with Robert Kelsey image



Exclusive moleskin notebook design coming soon

NEW PAINTING FOR SALE TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE MAID

Scottish landscape artist James Galt has kindly donated this beautiful painting to the Maid of the Loch. It's an original, a one-off, and all funds go towards the restoration project.

A minimum donation of £250 and if you are interested then please e-mail charli.summers@maidoftheloch.org



WILD HIGHLANDS COFFEE AT THE PIER

The first season at the Pier has been successful with customers enjoying the best view of Loch Lomond come rain or sun. Special events such as whisky and prosecco tastings have been popular and Wild Highlands hope to bring more events like this next season.

Keep up to date with news at
<https://www.facebook.com/wildhighlandscffee>



Our winter hours are:
Monday – closed • Tuesday – Sunday 9.30am to 4pm

MAID OF THE LOCH

www.maidoftheloch.org
Loch Lomond Steamship Company, The Pier, Pier Road, Balloch G83 8QX.
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