



The

ISSUE SEVENTEEN | SUMMER 2014

HEBRIDEAN TIMES

Inside this issue

View from
the Bridge

West Coast
Wonders

Hebridean Princess
Explorer cruises

Picture
Competition



By appointment to HM The Queen.
Provision of cruise holidays on *Hebridean Princess*.
All Leisure Holidays trading as Hebridean Island Cruises.



HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES



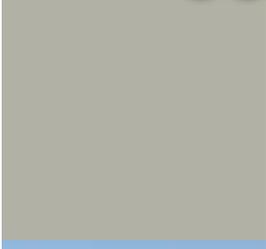
04



08



05



13



09



06



14



10



07



11



12



13



14



15

Contents

- 03 Welcome from the Chief Operating Officer**
Ken Charleson's Foreword
- 04 View from the Bridge**
by Captain Trevor Bailey
- 05 News from the ship**
Introducing our new 3rd Engineer – Mike Stevens
Captain Heaton's charity quest update
Hebridean Princess celebrates milestone
- 06 Meet the Team**
Brian Waterworth, 2nd Engineer
- 07 Sunrise over the Five Sisters of Kintail**
by Jonathan Moffatt, Sales Office Manager
- 08 West Coast Wonders**
by Andrea Middleton,
Hebridean Princess guide
- 09 Inverie and the Seven Men of Knoydart**
Britain's Last Wilderness
- 10 Discover more next summer with *Hebridean Princess Explorer* cruises**
- 11 Cruising the Rhine and the Moselle**
by David Indge, Chief Purser
- 12 Across the Sea of the Hebrides**
a poem by Mrs Amanda Clare
- 13 Picture Perfect**
Ronnie Mullin and Brian Harrison
- 14 Chef's Classic Recipe Picture Competition**
- 15 An Easter Escape**
by William Higginbotham,
Hebridean Princess guest
Ilkley Literature Festival
- 16 *Hebridean Princess* in Pictures**
by Bryan Kennedy
- Cruising and Touring with All Leisure Holidays**
A host of holiday opportunities for you

Welcome from the Chief Operating Officer

I am sure that, like me, most of you are enthused by the thought of a superb cruise voyage; the opportunity of sailing to new destinations and less accessible corners of the globe delivers an air of exhilaration and excitement.

Leaving Oban on a beautiful June evening, *Hebridean Princess* guests enjoyed a true voyage of discovery to the remote island archipelago of St Kilda, the most westerly point and perhaps most atmospheric location within the British Isles, as well as the UK's only double UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is sailing to destinations like St Kilda that makes cruising on board *Hebridean Princess* so special, and for 2015 the ship's area of exploration will extend further to the south coast of England, the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly and northern France – please refer to page 10 for further details.

The main 2015 *Hebridean Princess* Cruise Directory is now available and I very much hope that you have received your copy; earlier this year a small team of photographers sailed on the ship to photograph some of the stunning destinations we visit, and to capture the wonderfully relaxed and



genial atmosphere on board. Examples of their efforts are displayed throughout the new look Cruise Directory.

The third season of Hebridean River Cruises came to a successful conclusion in June; guest feedback has been extremely favourable and you can preview details of next year's programme on page 11.

Whatever you have planned for this summer, I do hope that we can welcome you on board in the near future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ken Charleson'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ken Charleson – Chief Operating Officer

“ It is sailing to destinations like St Kilda that makes cruising on board *Hebridean Princess* so special and for 2015 the ship's area of exploration will extend further to the south coast of England, the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly and northern France. ”



FROM THE BRIDGE

by Captain Trevor Bailey

The Collision Regulations - the mariner's Highway Code - require that 'every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing ..'and so it seems appropriate to consider what our Lookouts will have seen or heard in the first few months of the 2014 season. Although I have now been Master on a full-time basis for only four months, there have been many wonderful sights to behold and, for me, many 'firsts', all in the company of great guests. It is challenging to single out particular events as they are all worthy of mention.

My first cruise 'flying solo' on the Clyde started in sparkling, mirror glass calm with beautiful reflections of Loch Long and Loch Goil, to be followed by the challenging transit of the Kyles of Bute - no room for error there and, with a full audience of guests on the Bridge Wings, I am pleased to report that we cleared the buoys as if they were far further apart than they looked! Sunshine soon gave way to wind and rain and our rounding of the Mull of Kintyre was in very different conditions to those at the start of the week. This took us back to 'home territory' and the start of our cruises from Oban.

Easter was late this year - perhaps thankfully so and, for the first time in several years, we were able to land our guests on Iona for the Easter Sunday service ... in even more sunshine and, looking at the pictures on the slipway, you could be forgiven for thinking that the ship was in much warmer climes!! The day was topped off with a visit to Staffa, using a local boat from Iona. I think that we were all surprised to land again at Iona for the next two weeks - it has a reputation for being difficult to get to - and a landing on Staffa using the Hardys the following week was a most memorable experience for many.



A part of my job is to maintain a proper lookout on the weather forecasts, and the challenges that that presents can be 'interesting' to say the least, but I am very fortunate to have wonderful colleagues with a wealth of experience in our operations and their

“ Although I have now been Master on a full-time basis for only four months, there have been many wonderful sights to behold and, for me, many 'firsts', all in the company of great guests. ”

advice when changes are necessary has been invaluable - occasionally inspiring (or so one of guests would have us believe!). Perhaps the most challenging of those changes was the decision to go directly to St Kilda at the start of our first cruise there this season - and it paid off, with guests landed ashore after a grand tour of the outlying stacs in early morning sunshine, surrounded by an abundance of sea birds.

We also stopped off at the Shiant Isles and guests were treated to a feast of bird life, seals, dolphins and whales all in the same afternoon. An abiding memory for me will be the sound of the seals calling to each other across the rocks, which could be heard by the Lookouts from quite some distance away - haunting and beautiful at the same time. Looking ahead, I am excited to be taking the ship to Norway - a country that I love but have yet to visit with *Hebridean Princess* ... may the sunshine remain with us!

Crew News

Introducing our new 3rd Engineer – Mike Stevens

Originally from St Ives in Cornwall, Mike's sea-going career began in 1973 in Southampton as a cadet with BP Tanker Company Ltd. He then joined GPO Cableships (later BT Marine) in 1978 as an Engineer Superintendent, leaving in 1997 as 2nd Engineer. Mike was also employed by Wightlink Ferries and Red Funnel Group Southampton

before working ashore for a number of years.

Returning to his native Cornwall in 2007, he worked as Relief Chief Engineer on *Scillonian III*, the day-passenger ferry from Penzance to the Isles of Scilly. The *Scillonian III* is a 37 year old vessel and the crossing is a very scenic voyage of just under three hours, sometimes in very

rough conditions in the western approaches.

Mike currently lives in Penzance, Cornwall and enjoys all forms of keeping fit, particularly jogging. He has always wanted to experience sailing on a cruise ship and has now achieved this thanks to the opportunity of working aboard *Hebridean Princess*.



Captain Heaton's charity quest update

You may have previously read our article announcing Captain Richard Heaton's challenge to ski the vertical height of Mount Everest in one day in the Three Valleys region of the French Alps.

With blue sky, sunshine and warm temperatures forecast for the week, the challenge was brought forward three days to the 16th March in



order to make the most of the snow conditions.

Captain Heaton says "Starting out from Meribel Village, I began a circuit around the Three Valleys skiing via Meribel and Saint Martin de Belleville in order to get to the higher altitude peaks in Les Menuires and Val Thorens. The day went so well that I even got carried away and exceeded the Everest target of 29,029 ft by clocking 32,240 ft in vertical descent!"

It was an awesome day's skiing driven on by the fantastic support of family, friends, colleagues and guests of Hebridean – a really big thank you to everyone!"

The final total raised for Ski 4 Cancer was **£2,013.35**, this is the equivalent needed to fund two activity breaks for youngsters living with cancer so they can enjoy a holiday with their family.

Hebridean Princess celebrates milestone

12th March 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the launch of *MV Columba*, later renamed *Hebridean Princess*, in Aberdeen.

Lady Craigton, wife of Lord Craigton, Minister of State for Scotland, performed the launch from the yard of Hall, Russell and Co Ltd in 1964. Unfortunately, *Columba*

collided with her sister ship *Clansman* shortly after the launch before the tugs took control of her!

Columba, *Clansman* and *Hebrides* were ordered by the Scottish Secretary for service on the west coast to cater for the tourist traffic and allow tourists to take their own cars onto the islands.



Columba was used on the service to Mull and Morven from Oban and also provided a regular service to Iona. She originally carried 600 passengers, a number of touring buses and lorries or 50 cars.

The anniversary was marked on board with a cake and guests were shown footage of the launch.

Meet the Team

Brian Waterworth, 2nd Engineer

Brian will be a familiar face to many of you as he is our longest serving crew member, indeed he is our longest serving member of staff either ashore or afloat! Born on 11th September 1958 in Lowton, a small farming village in south west Lancashire, he was educated at Golborne comprehensive school and Bolton Polytechnic.

In 1975, Brian joined Lancashire United Transport as an indentured apprentice diesel fitter; he worked at Atherton Bus Depot until 1986 and has lots of happy memories from his time there repairing the fleet of coaches. Every Thursday he would take his mother shopping to Adsa in either a double

decker bus or Manchester United's Team Coach! Brian has many stories to tell from his years at the bus depot.

After the buses, Brian was out walking his sister's dog one day when his uncle stopped his car and asked if he would be interested in a job fixing canal boat engines at Anderton Marina. Brian enjoyed three memorable seasons at the marina, which is overlooked by the historic Anderton boat lift. His main job was to keep the engines running, however he also was involved in the day to day running of the marina. It was here that Brian met Tony and Susan Binns, founders of Hebridean Island Cruises. During his last season at the marina he was asked to deliver a



business prospectus to local businesses around the region. It was an invitation to invest in an idea called *Hebridean Princess*. That was 1988-1989.

In 1991, Brian received a telephone call from the housekeeper at the marina who told him that Mr Binns had been asking where he was working and would he give him a call. That night Brian rang Mr Binns who offered him a job on *Hebridean Princess* as Junior Engineer. Working on a ship was something he had never considered but he thinks he will get used to it eventually!

What do you enjoy about working at sea?

I do enjoy working at sea as it is one of the few places where you can fall out of your bunk, walk down a couple of flights of stairs to arrive at your place of work and not be stuck in a traffic jam on a motorway! My cabin is directly above the engine room so the downside is if something is not quite right with one of the engines your head starts to bounce off the pillow so you have to get up and see what is going on!

What makes working on *Hebridean Princess* so worthwhile?

Working on *Hebridean Princess* is very rewarding, especially if the Chief Engineer asks you to host a table at

dinner one evening so you can have a bit of banter with the guests. To find out that everyone is having a great holiday and you have played a little part in it just keeps things ticking along.

What are your favourite ports of call or islands visited by *Hebridean Princess*?

■ There are a few but St Kilda is always very special, especially when the squaddies were there and the Commanding Officer would time you running up the hill to the radar beacon. I believe the record is 18 minutes backwards! But that was one of the squaddies, you must have been a bad boy to get a posting there. ■ Flåm in Norway, trying to beat the

train up the pass on a push bike.

■ The Orkneys, as there are so many interesting places to see.

What are your most memorable moments from working on board?

My most memorable times were in the early years; cocktail parties in castles, pipe bands welcoming the ship to Cork, jazz bands welcoming us to the Isle of Man, and berthing alongside *HMS Belfast* in London. There are too many to relate here. Finally, Brian commented that he "would like to pay tribute to some great engineers past and present who have contributed to keeping the ship running for so many years. And long may she continue."



BRIAN AT DINNER WITH GUESTS



BRIAN IN THE CREW MESS



IN THE ENGINE ROOM



Sunrise over the Five Sisters of Kintail

by Jonathan Moffatt, Sales Office Manager

FIVE SISTERS OF KINTAIL BY BRIAN MAXTED

Strong brand recognition is something all companies strive to achieve and over the course of 25 years Hebridean Island Cruises has established a highly renowned brand that is synonymous with elegant, luxury cruising, superlative service and attention to detail.

For a small Yorkshire company, operating a ship carrying just 50 like-minded guests, the brand name of 'Hebridean Island Cruises' is now widely recognised and respected in the world of cruising.

The majority of our guests are well travelled souls and your trust and confidence not easily won, although, upon hearing the words 'Hebridean Island Cruises', 'Hebridean Princess' or just simply 'Hebridean' appears to evoke a reassurance of quality and comfort in most of you.

The instantly recognisable crown logo, partnering the company brand name, is easily identified as belonging to Hebridean Island Cruises and *MV Hebridean Princess*, but what may be less obvious is that the logo is not simply a crown to epitomise a Hebridean

'Princess' but a symbolisation of the mountain range 'The Five Sisters of Kintail' to the north of Glen Shiel.

During Hebridean's early years a 'red dot' presided over the blue crown, not depicting a jewel, but in fact the sun rising over the 'Five Sisters'. As years progressed, the red dot changed to blue, altering the logo's *raison d'être* to a more reminiscent Princess's crown.

For our 26th season we have returned to our origins and as a result the red sun will rise once more over The Five Sisters of Kintail, ensuring that the brand name of Hebridean Island Cruises and its iconic crown logo remain synonymous with elegant, luxury cruising, superlative service and attention to detail for many more years to come.

Our Cruise Blog

As you may be aware from our last issue, we launched an online diary, or 'cruise blog' this season to provide regular updates from the ship and the ports of call visited on each itinerary. This has proven very popular with guests who like to keep track of where the ship is and what is happening on board.

We are very grateful to all who have contributed; the Captains and crew, our on board guides and also to several of our guests who have sent in pictures and information to help us keep the blog up to date.

We welcome contributions from any guest bloggers travelling on a *Hebridean Princess* cruise so please send us your images and news either during or shortly after your cruise, or liaise with the Purser on board who will arrange for them to be sent to the office in Skipton. Any submissions can be sent by email to reservations@hebridean.co.uk

To read any of our cruise blogs from the season so far visit our website at www.hebridean.co.uk/blog.html

West Coast Wonders

by Andrea Middleton, *Hebridean Princess* guide

Autumn in Scotland is one of my favourite seasons for travelling the west coast as the colours at this time of year are spectacular.

In October the 'West Coast Wonders' cruise will showcase the diversity of the west coast, from castles and gardens to islands and wildlife to give a real flavour of what the area has to offer.

The Crinan Canal today is serene and calm, yet the impact this canal had on communications to the west coast cannot be gauged. The small Clyde puffers used this sheltered short cut to gain access to the islands, taking food and supplies, a real lifeline to the islanders. Today the canal travels past saltmarshes which makes it a great place to look out for waders, herons and migrating birds, as well as providing a beautiful cycle ride for those willing.

Kilmartin Glen is such a special place, nowhere else in Britain do you find so many prehistoric monuments in such a small area. It is literally littered with burial chambers and standing stones, for me a magical place. And best of all, you can clamber over them, touch and feel their presence too.



CRINAN CANAL BY BRIAN MAXTED

The island of Rum is the next stop on this cruise, with a visit to Kinloch Castle. This place does not fail to make you wonder what scandalous stuff George Bullough got up to in this Edwardian folly.

Another of the Small Isles that this cruise plans to visit is Eigg, one of my favourite islands. Packed full of history where monks were murdered by Viking raiders and clansmen massacred, but this now independent and 'green' island is a testament to what islanders can do if given the chance to take control.



OPEN AIR CHURCH, PLOCKTON
BY BRIAN MAXTED

The ruined house of the chief of the Clan Macdonald sits at the centre of the gardens of the Clan Donald Centre on the Isle of Skye. These sheltered gardens are filled with autumnal hues as well as the Museum of the Isles, which gives a history of this, the largest of all clans, the MacDonalDs.

We then cross to the mainland and visit wild Inverie. A visit here just wouldn't be complete without a drink in the most remote pub on the British mainland, The Old Forge. Delve a bit deeper and you will find wilderness and a Viking grave, the latter is a rare and beautiful find.

Eilean Donan Castle certainly has a wow factor in its situation. Sitting out on the island that gives the fortress its name, it is the most photographed castle in Scotland, and on the tour you will hear all about its history as a Mackenzie stronghold, its involvement in the Jacobite risings and its restoration. A real treat. Also in this area is Plockton with its mild climate and pretty walks. My favourite



place here is the open air church which is a natural amphitheatre that was used as a church by the Free Church of Scotland before they were given a church in the town in which to worship.

Salen on the Ardnamurchan peninsula reveals a rare opportunity to walk through ancient oak woods. The colours of these trees are just spectacular at this time of year and it is a particular highlight for me to be able to walk through these woodlands, something you would be hard pushed to find elsewhere in Scotland as most oak woods were felled to make charcoal during the Industrial Revolution.

For many, Tobermory means time to shop for a few gifts for friends and family before returning home, or sample the local whisky. But for those with an adventurous streak you might want to strike up above the town and find where the Time Team dug a few years ago, revealing an early Christian chapel, perhaps built around the time of St Columba himself!

This year will be my 10th year cruising on *Hebridean Princess* and these islands and the west coast still fill me with marvel and wonder at their diverse beauty. I look forward to you joining me on this cruise.

West Coast Wonders

will depart from Oban on
7th October 2014 for seven nights.

Prices from **£2,250**
per person based on double
occupancy of an inside cabin.



INVERIE BY BRIAN MAXTED

Inverie and the Seven Men of Knoydart

Inverie is the only village on the stunningly beautiful, remote Knoydart peninsula, an area of wilderness only accessible by ferry from Mallaig or by a 20 mile hike on foot. Inverie lies on the north side of Loch Nevis, an area of secluded sandy beaches, spectacular mountain scenery, low level walks and abundant wildlife. The village is a line of white-washed buildings strung out along the shore of Inverie Bay, almost insignificant under the towering bulk of Sgurr Coire Choinnichean which forms an impressive backdrop.

Inverie today is home to a thriving community and the most remote pub on the British mainland, The Old Forge Inn, recognised by the Guinness Book of Records.

Knoydart is a particularly idyllic estate, however a succession of potato blights and the failure of migrating herring shoals brought famine and poverty to the area. In 1852 the area was cleared of tenants to make way for sheep and 400 people were evicted and transported to America.

The estate was purchased in the early 1930s by a young English aristocrat, Lord Brocket, a Nazi sympathiser. During the war years, the Knoydart estate served a very useful purpose to the Allied war effort, much to the disgust of its owner! Britain's military authorities requisitioned the estate for the duration to house and train commandos and undercover special forces.

When peace resumed in 1945, the British troops left and, after some

time, Lord and Lady Brocket returned to Knoydart. Lady Brocket's first order to her employes was to remove every single object which the Allied servicemen may have touched, including every toilet and seat, and throw them into the sea! Lord Brocket also sacked several staff and replaced them with 'loyal' gamekeepers to scare off unwelcome intruders.

The locals silently endured all this until young men, returning from a war of freedom which had been fought at great cost, needed a plot of land to build new lives. Social liberty and equality were expected and the community was losing patience with the high-handed English autocrat.

On 9th November 1948, seven local men, including veterans of the recent World War, invaded the Knoydart Estate, staked out 65 acres of arable land each and 10,000 acres of hill land and settled in. This was only a miniscule part of the whole estate but news of the 'land-raid' was reported nationally and the Scottish nation loudly cheered and sent mountains of fan mail to the tiny post office at Inverie!

Undeterred, Lord Brockett responded with a Court Order ordering the seven off his land. However the men were invoking the Land Settlement Act of the post World War 1 era which permitted returning ex-servicemen to take over land which was under-used and farm it as their own. They hired a lawyer, who assured them they only needed to follow a number of legal processes to almost certainly win their case, by first vacating the squatted land. This was a big mistake as, once off the land, they lost their bargaining chip.

Lord Brockett won but the Seven Men of Knoydart became legendary heroes to the cause of crofting.

In more recent years there has been a succession of usually absentee landlords, in the 1990s there was a danger that the whole peninsula may be turned into a military training area.

Instead, a number of agencies got together with the local community and in 1997 the Knoydart Foundation was set up. This gives the community a real stake in the ownership of the area and its future. The community buy-out came to fruition in 1999 and the aim of the Trust is to preserve, enhance and develop Knoydart for the well being of the environment and the people.

Hebridean Princess is due to visit Inverie on the following cruises during the remainder of the 2014 season:

Highland and Island Escape

commencing 23rd September

West Coast Wonders

commencing 7th October

West Coast Explorer

commencing 14th October

Across the Sea to Skye

commencing 21st October

Prices from **£1,950**
per person based on double occupancy of an inside cabin.

Discover more next summer with *Hebridean Princess Explorer* cruises

If you have received your copy of our 2015 Cruise Directory, you will be aware that we are returning to Wales, the south coast of England, the Isles of Scilly, the Channel Islands and northern France next summer after an interlude of four years.

Our voyage south begins in Oban on 14th July and we will cruise to Portland in Dorset via Northern Ireland, Eire, the Isles of Scilly and the coast of Cornwall and Devon, in the company of well known BBC TV presenter Professor Mark Horton. Mark is Professor in Archaeology at the University of Bristol, educated at Cambridge University, he is an expert on maritime and coastal archaeology and is sure to enrich this Grand Celtic Voyage.

We are featuring two cruises to the Channel Islands to also include the coast of northern France, and which have already proved extremely popular. The first of the cruises, Footloose to the Channel Islands is already fully booked, however there are still cabins available on the second, Jewels of the English Channel. This cruise offers a continental flavour, featuring visits to three of the Channel Islands; Guernsey, Sark and Alderney, as well as Dieppe, Honfleur and Cherbourg, with the additional highlight of embarking the ship in London where we will be berthed close to Tower Bridge, always a fantastic sight!

Following on from this year's 70th anniversary of D-Day celebrations,



HONFLEUR

we have a cruise to The Beaches of Normandy on 1st August. This will allow Hebridean guests to enjoy moments of quiet reflection at several of the D-Day beaches after the activity and excitement of the anniversary celebrations have ceased. This cruise will also include a visit to the Historic Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth and a tour of the Mary Rose. Bringing these visits to life will be our renowned guest speaker, Rear Admiral John Lippiett CB CBE, who had a 36 year career in the Royal Navy. He took early retirement in 2003 and became Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust. The last eleven years have been engaged in driving forward the conservation of the ship and her unique artefacts while creating the new museum which opened in 2013 to great international acclaim.

Uncover the great seafaring heritage of the nation on our Historic Maritime

Discovery cruise, beginning in Portsmouth on 10th August and culminating in a visit to the Cutty Sark and a cruise under the iconic Tower Bridge, where the ship will berth for disembarkation. This fascinating itinerary contains many highlights such as Queen Victoria's family home, Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, the Historic Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth and a tour of the Mary Rose Museum, Canterbury Cathedral, Chatham Docks and the World Heritage Site at Greenwich and the Maritime Museum. This cruise will appeal to naval enthusiasts as well as guests who live in the south of England and wish to experience the magic of a cruise on *Hebridean Princess*, combined with the ease and convenience of shorter travelling distances at the beginning and end of the cruise.

Our final southern sojourn will see us departing from Portland on 26th August and cruising north to arrive in our home port of Oban on 4th September. Spend nine fascinating nights absorbing the very best of four Celtic nations, accompanied by National Trust speaker, Adrian Tinniswood. Adrian is the author of twelve books on architectural and social history and is well-known as a lecturer and broadcaster. Highlights of this cruise include the Lost Gardens of Heligan, the medieval Pembroke Castle, Mount Stewart House in Northern Ireland and the Titanic Exhibition in Belfast.



SARK COAST



PEMBROKE CASTLE



ST. MARY'S ISLES OF SCILLY

**2015
BROCHURE
LAUNCH
OFFERS EXPIRE
FRIDAY 8th
AUGUST 2014**

Cruising the Rhine and the Moselle

by David Indge, Chief Purser

I have had the pleasure of sailing on board *Royal Crown* for the last two years, acting as Host, and this year was as enjoyable as ever.

The cruise entitled Cruising the Rhine and Moselle commenced in Remich, Luxembourg. Once our guests had settled in, we had a welcome and introduction from our Captain Alexander Scharf and the Hebridean Team accompanying me - Cruise Director Sheila Salmon, Tour Manager Ann Harper and Musician Will Marshall.

On Sunday morning two coaches took us to a wonderful viewpoint of the city of Trier, possibly being the oldest city in Germany. After a city walking tour, guests had free time before returning to *Royal Crown* for lunch. In the afternoon guests enjoyed strolls ashore or relaxed on board in very sunny conditions.

Former Diplomat and Historian Graham Archer gave the first of his three lectures 'The Moselle Frontier People' following afternoon tea in the lounge and before we prepared for the Welcome Gala Cocktail Party and Dinner.

On Monday morning we had a relaxing cruise through three locks en route to Bernkastel, a pretty town with its picturesque, flower-decked, half-timbered houses. After a tour of the town we visited a local cellar, Dr Pauly-Bergweiler, where we enjoyed tastings of three distinctive Moselle wines.

On Tuesday morning, as we continued cruising along the Moselle through four further locks to Cochem, we had our second lecture from Graham Archer entitled 'The Rhineland and the German Enigma'. During the afternoon and evening we were alongside in Cochem with guests exploring at their leisure or taking a walking tour of the town and a further wine tasting of red wine as well as white!



On Wednesday morning we sailed to Koblenz where the Moselle joins with the Rhine. Following a walking tour of the Old Town we were taken by coach to Castle Nemedi for a concert programme of works by Franz Schubert, performed by the pianist Fumiko Shiraga.

After a morning cruising the Rhine, we arrived in Cologne on Thursday whilst having a BBQ lunch on the Sun Deck on yet another glorious day of sunshine. After lunch we visited the cathedral, followed by free time with some guests going to the nearby Roman-Germanic Museum and a few to the Gaffel Am Dom Bierkeller for a typical German Beer!

Friday was sadly our last full day together on *Royal Crown* with Graham Archer presenting his final lecture entitled 'Understanding the Dutch' as we sailed to Arnhem. Once alongside in Arnhem coaches took us with guides to the moving Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery before continuing on to the Airbourne Museum in Oosterbeek. That evening we enjoyed Hebridean's Farewell Dinner with an address to the Haggis performed by Will Marshall and a Thank You parade of all the hard working crew.

Saturday came with a farewell to all the guests having experienced the sights and scenery, along with friendships made and renewed on board *Royal Crown*.

Please call our reservations team on 01756 704704 to register your interest in any 2015 river cruise.

2015 Hebridean River Cruises

For 2015 we are planning four exciting itineraries on the grand waterways of Europe, with the opportunity of combining two individual cruises offering guests a choice of two stunning 14 night voyages incorporating the best of the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, all from the comfort of *Royal Crown*.

3rd to 10th July 2015

Vistas and Vineyards of the Rhine

Basel to Nuremberg

Our first cruise will commence in Basel, Switzerland on the Upper Rhine and will travel north, joining the Main and continuing east to Nuremberg. This cruise will include tastings of the finest wines this stunning region has to offer, accompanied by expert Master of Wine Dr Arabella Woodrow.

10th to 17th July 2015

Danube Symphony Nuremberg to Budapest

Our second departure will commence in Nuremberg and cruise the Danube to Budapest, taking in historic Vienna and the Slovakian capital Bratislava en route. This cruise will have a musical theme and will be accompanied by renowned broadcaster James Naughtie, presenter of the BBC Proms.

22nd to 29th August 2015

Treasures of the Danube Budapest to Nuremberg

This cruise will explore the art and architecture of the Danube in the company of well-known broadcaster and presenter Eric Knowles, NADFAS speaker and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

29th August to 5th September 2015

Discovering the Rhine Nuremberg to Amsterdam

Our final European voyage of the season incorporates the picturesque Main and the lower Rhine, including the stunning Rhine Gorge, and will delve into the military history of the region, enhanced by renowned military historian and Battlefield guide Major General Peter Williams.

Across the Sea of the Hebrides

Thank you to first time cruiser **Mrs Amanda Clare** who penned this poem following her 'Across the Sea of the Hebrides' cruise on 20th-27th May.

I've never been on a cruise
Didn't know what to expect
I'm not frightened of water
But what if we're wrecked?

We were piped on board in Oban
The ship was a wonderful sight
And the welcome we received
Put paid to my terrible fright.

Travelling to the island of Barra
We were obviously in for some thrills
Captain said the waters were 'lumpy'
Out came the sea sickness pills.

We sailed past the Uists
and Benbecula as well
The Captain said we couldn't land
There was just too much of a swell.

Sheltering in the harbour
Where the waters were calm
We succumbed to Pimms
and gin and tonic
And all the crew's charm.

On the island of Harris
We've seen Brochs and Black Houses
We've been to the shops
And bought Harris Tweed trousers.

And Harris Tweed jackets
And Harris Tweed bags
And Harris Tweed hats and coats
And all sorts of glad rags.

Enormous credit to Rita, and her
Knowledge of island history
Although much of Scottish folklore
I think will long remain a mystery.



PIPED ON BOARD BY BRIAN MAXTED

On coach trips and boat trips
It's Jean who's always first
But the others beat her to the bar
Clearly dying of thirst.

Everything on board the ship
Is simply quite fantastic
But if you're planning to
do another cruise
I suggest your waistbands are elastic.

Everyone was on the Skye Deck
When the sun came out to play
We were very late for dinner
A perfect end to a beautiful day.

We have followed the
battles of the clans
And hugged the standing stones
Trodden the paths of Vikings
And found Neolithic homes.

Our glasses are almost empty
Yes please, we'll have
more Champagne
As the Scotch mist rolls in
And it pours down with rain.

The ship is run like clockwork
Food and wine is not on ration
The Captain and his crew
All shipshape and *PRINCESS* fashion.

Portree was still wet and windy
Claire and I went out on the RIB
It was just a great relief to me
That I wasn't wearing the wig.

The spectacular Eilean Donan Castle
Is a famous Scottish treasure
We learned about plaids and kilts
But were they made to measure?

The brochure says there's
no entertainment
I think this must be a hoax
We had fund raising frog racing
And Charles and his dubious jokes.

The crew are quite delicious
And the food is very polite
I think that's the alcohol talking
It doesn't sound quite right.

We have been living in
exquisite luxury
With a constant flow of Champagne
I do understand why so many of you
Come back again and
again and again.

So raise a glass to the staff
To the places we've been
To the people we've met
And God Save The Queen.

Amanda Clare. 26/5/14
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BEACH LANDING, EIGG

Picture Perfect



RONNIE AND STEPH MULLIN, BRIAN AND CAROLINE HARRISON AND LUIGI JACONELLI (CHIEF ENGINEER) AT DINNER IN THE COLUMBA RESTAURANT IN 1992

Earlier this year we commissioned a photo shoot on board *Hebridean Princess*, the results of which you can see in the new-look 2015 Cruise Directory designed and produced by Mullin Design of Kendal. Ronnie Mullin and Brian Harrison joined the Footloose along the Drove Routes cruise in April 2014 but this was not the first time they had joined forces on the ship for such an assignment...

Their first cruise was in July 1992; Mullin Design had been trading

for two years and Hebridean Island Cruises for only three. It was their first joint commission and they have been working together ever since, both for Hebridean as well as for Minerva when Swan Hellenic was owned by P&O and then Carnival Cruises.

Brian was responsible for the interiors whilst Ronnie was art directing and capturing exterior shots of the ship and landscapes, just as in the most recent photo-shoot. They successfully managed to take shots of all the cabins and public rooms, crew, and food. Ronnie commented "it was hard work but enjoyable, as always, on *Hebridean Princess*."

He went on to say "in those days it was all film cameras, although a few Polaroids were used, so you were never quite sure what you were going to get until the film was developed but, as always, Brian came up with the goods."

They can both remember visiting Inverie, Plockton, Rum, Inverewe Gardens, Gairloch, and Kyle of Lochalsh, all of which were revisited on this year's

shoot. One thing it was not possible to do back in 1992 was sail under the Skye Bridge, as it did not open until 1995!

The Waterfront Deck was yet to have cabins installed and Ronnie remembers that one of the guests had his Rolls Royce loaded on to the ship in Oban, and then off in various ports of call, including Tobermory.



FROM L TO R, RONNIE MULLIN, STEPH MULLIN, CAROLINE HARRISON AND BRIAN HARRISON IN 2014

Chef's Classic Recipe



Dark Chocolate and Ginger Truffle Torte

To serve 16 (or a hungry 8!)

Ingredients

- 300ml double cream
- 450g dark chocolate chips
- 280g of digestive biscuits
- 125g butter (unsalted)
- 3/5 (dependent on size) pieces of grated crystalized stem ginger
- 9 inch loose bottomed flan dish

Method

Lightly grease flan dish with unsalted butter and place on a baking tray.

Melt the butter gently over a low heat

Blend the biscuits until they become fine crumbs

Mix the melted butter with the biscuits until combined

Place evenly in base of flan dish and around the edges to the top. Remember, that you need to leave enough room to pour the chocolate mix in

Place in fridge to cool and set

Grate the Stem Ginger and place to one side

Place the chocolate chips in a bowl

Pour the cream into the pan and add the ginger and gently bring to the boil, stirring continuously

Once ready, pour over the chocolate and stir continuously until all blended together. You should have a smooth, silky mixture

Remove base from fridge and pour chocolate mix in to it until it reaches just below the top of the flan ring. The top should be smooth and even

Return to the fridge to set (approx. 2hrs)

Once set, gently remove from flan dish and place on a serving dish, the torte needs to be as close to room temperature as possible for serving



Picture Competition

Guess the location and win a
Hebridean Princess Polo Shirt

Study the image above and see if you can guess the location of *Hebridean Princess*. The image was taken by Bryan Kennedy, see page 16 for details of how to order a copy of his photo book, *Hebridean Princess in Pictures*.

Three winners will be randomly selected from the correct entries and will receive a lovely cotton Polo Shirt with a *Hebridean Princess* logo.

Please email your answer, along with your name, address and postcode to louise.pratt@hebridean.co.uk by 29th August 2014.

Please note email addresses may be used for marketing purposes. If you would prefer not to receive email communications from Hebridean Island Cruises, please state this in your entry.

We were inundated with entries for the Chef's Food and Drink quiz featured in the last issue, the answers are shown opposite. The lucky winner was Mrs Patricia Bingham of Nunthorpe who received a luxury Scottish hamper filled with tasty treats.

Answers to the Food and Drink Quiz from Issue 16:

01 On what date is Burns night and what food is traditionally served?

25th January and Haggis, Neeps and Tatties

02 What is the name of the only whisky distilled on the Isle of Skye? **Talisker**

03 Which famous breakfast product served on the vessel comes from the town of Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis? **Black Pudding from Charles MacLeod**

04 What is the Norwegian dish known as gravadlax? **Salt cured salmon**

05 Which meat is traditionally used in eggs benedict? **Ham or bacon**

06 Where does the famous smoked fish known as 'Smokies' come from? **Arbroath**

An Easter Escape

by William Higginbotham, *Hebridean Princess* guest

In April 2014, I spent my first Easter away from home. My escape was a cruise on the *Hebridean Princess*, which left Oban bound for the Scottish islands and back, but in particular to a place of historic pilgrimage, the abbey on the Isle of Iona.

The island itself is notoriously difficult to reach and for the previous three years weather conditions have made the Easter trip impossible. Putting the safety of his passengers first, it is the responsibility of the Captain to decide if the journey to the island will be undertaken.

So with anticipation and excitement I, along with the other passengers, waited for the green light. If all was well, there would be two small boats making the short hazardous trip between the ship and the island. The trip was on.

Breakfast was served early that glorious Sunday morning and the first boat would go ashore at 08:45am. I was one of the first in line to board the small

boat which was to ferry us to Iona. It took some time to load the passengers, the waters were choppy and a great deal of courage and balance was needed to walk along the boarding ramp, and these conditions were considered favourable!

But it was worth the effort, once ashore the atmosphere was breathtaking. It was just wonderful walking up to the abbey in glorious sunshine, passing The Great Crosses, walking through the Nunnery and many other historical buildings. In particular I wanted to visit the small ancient graveyard. It is the final resting place of numerous kings and saints and I was interested to find the grave of John Smith, located in a sheltered spot overlooking the loch.

At 10:15am I joined the Easter procession which followed the cross of daffodils and a huge candle signifying the light of the world. We were also accompanied by hand bell ringers who chimed our arrival into the abbey and I was eager to make sure I secured a front row pew for the service taking place at 10:30am.



IONA ON EASTER DAY WITH CHIEF PURSER DAVID INDGE AND CAPTAIN TREVOR BAILEY

There is a small community of approximately 100 residents on Iona and the service is run entirely by them. On that particular Easter Sunday over 250 people, including two ferry crossings and visitors, were in attendance creating a very special atmosphere and making a wonderful celebration.

To round off what turned out to be a magical Easter escape, my afternoon was spent walking around the Isle of Staffa, visiting Fingal's Cave and seeing the rare and extraordinary puffins.

The 2015 Easter in the Hebrides cruise commences on 31st March for seven nights and is scheduled to include a visit to the Easter Sunday service at Iona Abbey Church.

Complimentary Tickets to the Ilkley Literature Festival



Ilkley Literature Festival is an annual event in the spa town of Ilkley, West Yorkshire (close to Hebridean's office in Skipton) and has become one of the UK's top literary festivals. Attracting many important international literary figures, its two-week programme, starting in October, now features more than 200 events in a variety of venues in the Ilkley area.

Over the past few years Hebridean Island Cruises has been proud to sponsor a number of events at the festival and this year we are delighted to be doing so again. We do therefore have a limited number of **complimentary tickets** available for the following events:



James Naughtie

Saturday 11th October – 11am

Veteran Radio 4 presenter James talks about his debut political thriller *The Madness of July*, in which he draws on decades of experience as a political insider in Westminster and Washington.



Sheila Hancock CBE

Wednesday 15th October – 7.30pm

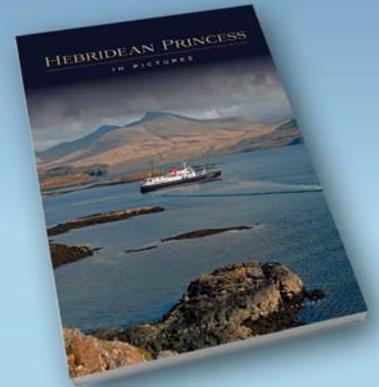
Sheila discusses her novel, *Miss Carter's War*, which follows the life of Marguerite Carter from post-war Britain to the present day. As well as being an author, Sheila is one of Britain's best known and loved actors and was awarded a CBE for services to drama in 2011.

If you would like to attend one of these fascinating events, please call our reservations team on 01756 704704 to reserve your tickets. Please be aware that tickets are extremely limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Hebridean Princess in Pictures

by Bryan Kennedy

This colourful pictorial documentary was created by Bryan Kennedy to commemorate the 25th anniversary of *Hebridean Princess*. Bryan and his camera saw beauty in these wonderful landscapes, with a burning desire to capture them and bring them to life from the inverse perspective off the land. With the editor's choice running through it, accompanied by insightful caption text revealing the history, heritage and detail of the land tours, this publication is available at the special offer price for Hebridean Times readers of just £12 by ordering via the link at www.hebrideanprincessinpictures.co.uk or direct at www.ferrypubs.co.uk and entering offer code HEBO02HP.



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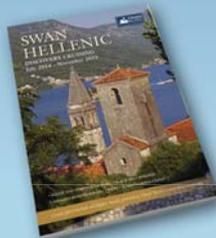
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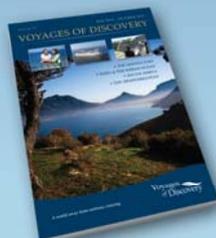
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