



August 2017

QE2'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

The 50th anniversary of the launch of what would become the most famous ship in the world will be marked on Friday 22 September 2017 with a special Conference to be held at Clydebank's historic Town Hall. Queen Elizabeth 2 was launched by Her Majesty The Queen on 20 September 1967 and, although QE2 retired to Dubai in 2008 after an amazing career spanning almost 40 years, enthusiasm for the ship, her career and her legacy remains as strong today as it was in the 1960s when construction of the ship took place.

The Conference has been organised by the QE2 Story Forum www.theqe2story.com which is an online forum dedicated to keeping the story of this great ship alive and will be attended by members of the Forum, ex crew, maritime enthusiasts and members of the public. Several speakers will share different key aspects of what was a remarkable career. Some of those attending witnessed The Queen launching the ship.

All 220 tickets for the Conference sold out some weeks ago. Delegates will be attending from New Zealand, USA, Belgium, Spain, The Netherlands, Germany and across the UK. Full details can be found at www.qe2event.com

The Conference will start at 0945 hours and will finish at 1630 hours. The programme of speakers consists of those passionate about the ship and those who worked on board and include:

Ian Johnston	'QE2 Origins'
Dr Bruce Peter	'QE2 Interior and Exterior Design'
Brian Price	'Cruise Director on QE2'
Ronnie Keir	'QE2 from Clydebank to Los Angeles'
Captain Nick Bates	'A Laugh on the Ocean Wave'
Scott Clegg	'QE2 Dubai 2008 – 2012'
Professor David Humphreys	'A Queen goes to War. The Role of QE2 in the 1982 Falklands Conflict'

Rob Lightbody, who established the QE2 Story Forum in January 2009 and ran one of the very first websites to feature QE2 in the early 1990s, says:

“Although it is almost 10 years since QE2 left these shores for a new life in Dubai, the interest in, and passion for, all things QE2 continues to make this ship one of the most beloved ever to be built. This milestone anniversary is a unique opportunity to gather and celebrate a maritime legend as well as to remember the Clyde’s shipbuilding past and its place in the world”.

For most of her almost 40 years in service (April 1969 – November 2008) QE2 was the most famous ship in the world being rarely far from the news, for good reason or bad. She became a strikingly potent symbol, recognised around the world, not just of all that is best in Britain, but of the enduring excellence of Scottish engineering. She sailed over five million nautical miles, more than any other ship ever, completed 25 full world cruises, and crossed the Atlantic, surely the world’s cruelest sea, over 800 times; yet her hull was as sound in 2008 as the day she first slipped into the waters of the Clyde four decades earlier.

QE2 was celebrated, acclaimed, revered and respected. QE2 was a phenomenon.

In 39½ years of service, QE2...

- completed 1,419 voyages
- sailed 5,875,493.22 million nautical miles –more than any other ship ever
- carried almost 2.5 million passengers
- completed 812 Atlantic crossings
- called at New York 710 times
- called at Southampton 726 times
- completed 25 full World Cruises
- completed ten ‘extended’ voyages
- commanded by 25 Captains

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