



MV Balmoral at Lundy 1971.

MV Balmoral & Lundy 2017

MV Balmoral has historic links going back to 1971 when she was first acquired by P&A Campbell to become the Flagship of their Bristol Channel Fleet. In 1980 she served as the island supply ship in what proved not to be a too successful partnership between Campbells and the Landmark Trust. Other than the Oldenburg no other vessel can have made as many trips to Lundy over the last 46 years. Bringing over that time countless thousands of day trippers and in the old days staying passengers. One of which was myself coming to stay at the old Milcombe Hotel in 1977

Her recent history is probably well known to most LFS Members and the last few years have certainly not been without their challenges. I am delighted to advise that she will on Friday 26th May commence a 113-day sailing programme around the entire UK - but as ever it's the Bristol Channel that will command the bulk (57) of those days. She will sail to Lundy on 11 occasions throughout the summer. From Swansea, Porthcawl, Penarth, Clevedon and Minehead with most also picking up at Ilfracombe. I would like to highlight one very special unique sailing, which I am not sure has ever been done before? (I am sure someone will advise on this?) On Thursday 22nd June, she will sail at 08.30 from Milford Haven Dock direct to Lundy to arrive at 12.30 with then three and a half hours ashore before departing at 16.00 to arrive back in Milford at 19.30. This will be a very special sailing and perhaps give any LFS West Wales members the opportunity of visiting our island direct from West Wales.

Lundy Sailing Dates – For full details go to www.whitefunnel.co.uk

Or Telephone 0117 325 6200

Sunday 28th May – From Clevedon, Penarth & Ilfracombe

Tuesday 30th May – From Porthcawl & Ilfracombe

Weds 31st May – From Swansea & Ilfracombe

Thurs 22nd June – From Milford Haven Only

Weds 26th July – From Swansea & Ilfracombe

Thurs 27th July – From Porthcawl & Ilfracombe

Weds 2nd August From Swansea & Ilfracombe

Sun 6th August – Clevedon, Penarth & Ilfracombe ***Annual Lundy Church Service ***

Weds 9th August – From Swansea & Ilfracombe

Friday 11th August – From Minehead & Ilfracombe

Weds 16th August – From Swansea & Ilfracombe

Friday 25th August – From Minehead & Ilfracombe

Annual Balmoral Lundy Church Service

As many members may know this is a special service that has been organised by the Balmoral organisation and its predecessors for some 30 years. With the exciting news of the commencement of the renovations at St Helens Church, I assumed that this year would sadly not be possible. However it was an immense pleasure to be on Lundy last week when Derek Green and the Rev Brenda Jacobs met at the church for a final planning / confirmation meeting with all parties involved with the work. I was delighted with their enthusiasm that the service must go on. We will hold the service outside the church with the expected “wonderful weather” being a bonus. If not it will be in the backroom of the Tavern. But to quote Derek “it’s more important than ever to keep St Helens front of mind, funds still need to be raised and this service will help, and with Lundy ingenuity nothings impossible.” It is hoped that many LFS Members will attend.

Balmoral will also sail through 2017 on the South Coast, London and the Thames, North Wales, the Isle of Man, North West of England, the Scottish West Coast Islands and Glasgow and the Clyde. With many special, unique and firsts in her innovative programme. Thanks to the many members who have supported this fine vessel over many years. She is the most travelled of all excursion vessels and has called at virtually every pier, harbour and port possible, while carrying over two million passengers. Balmoral carries on the great tradition of coastal excursion steamers and retains the wonderfully historic link with Lundy, in the past and to this day assisting the Lundy coffers and balance sheet.

I do hope you may be able to sail with us during this vitally important season for Balmoral you will be very welcome.

Paul Doubler

MV Balmoral Trustee

LFS Member

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