

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION REMS Autumn Cruise Saturday 2nd October 2004

This visit has been organised by Tony Manning

The Waverley is the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world. It is operated by Waverley Excursions Ltd - a non-profit making organisation and a subsidiary of Waverley Steam Navigation Co Ltd - a Scottish Registered Charity that has been in existence since 1974. Their web site is at <http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk/introduction.htm>.

The Waverley was built on the Clyde in 1947 - to replace the original Waverley that sunk off Dunkirk in 1940. It was originally built to sail only between Craighendarran & Arrochar in West Scotland. It is amazing to think that she now sails right round Britain offering regular trips on the Clyde, the Thames, South Coast of England and the Bristol Channel with other calls at various ports & piers throughout the UK. In 1974, the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society (PSPS) bought the 693-tonne paddle steamer for the princely sum of £1. It is a credit to the Society and supporters that the Waverley became more than a museum and now operates a full programme of cruises from Easter to October.

2003 saw the completion of a major restoration project, which returned Waverley to the original 1940s style with which she was built. The Waverley is British Registered to carry up to 800 passengers. Waverley's on-board facilities include a self-service restaurant, two fully licensed bars, heated observation lounge, 'Jeanie Deans' tearoom and a souvenir shop. A visit to the engine room is a must on any trip to see the magnificent engines at work.

A group booking has been provisionally made for Saturday 2 October 2004 when the Waverly travels from Tower Pier to Whitstable via Southend and back. It leaves London Tower Pier at 0900 and arrives back at Tower Pier 2030.

At 9.30 it will pass under Tower Bridge, which will be raised to allow passage. Then it is on past Greenwich and the Thames Barrier, with an informed commentary as it travels through Docklands and down the tideway. At 12.30 it will dock at Southend Pier, where one can either disembark and remain in Southend until the boat returns at 16.45 or carry on to Whitstable. At Southend you can either walk or take the train to the promenade for your lunch break at one of the restaurants - fish and chips to die for, perhaps? <http://www.southend.gov.uk> provides a resume of the attractions to found at Southend.

Guests and family members, including grandchildren, are welcome on this trip, but there are no further concessions beyond the party rate discount which we will all get in the price below.

The costs are £23 return per person from Tower Pier to Southend and £33.30 return per person from Tower Pier to Whitstable. Please sign up in the usual way enclosing your cheque. Boarding tickets will then issued before the event

We need to make a firm booking by 1 July. Cancellations can probably be made up to early September.