

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society

PRESS RELEASE

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AWARD-WINNING HERITAGE STEAM SHIP 'THE DANNY' FIRES UP FOR A RECORD CRUISING YEAR

Award-winning heritage steamship, the 'Daniel Adamson', is firing up for a new record-breaking season of leisure cruises along the wonderful waterways of Cheshire and Merseyside.

Affectionately known as 'The Danny', the 1903 steamship launches its 2022 programme on Good Friday 15 April, with a rare visit to Canning Half Tide in Liverpool's Royal Albert Dock followed by up to six boat trips a month, ending on Sunday 9 October.

After a break of a couple of years, the Danny will again be making regular journeys from its base at Sutton Weaver, near Frodsham, along the Weaver Navigation to Anderton Boat Lift, the world's first boat lift, in Northwich. A major river dredging project by the Canal & River Trust has now enabled the ship to link up again with Cheshire's Cathedral of Canals, allowing visitors to enjoy two historic waterway attractions in one day.

Cheshire's specialist food and drink producers are also celebrated on several cruises, which feature opportunities to sample Nantwich Gin, Nomad Cheese & Wine, and local beers brewed by Chapter Brewery on a special Father's Day event.

Trips aboard the restored Art Deco tug vary in length from two and a half hour cruises along the Weaver Navigation to six hour voyages taking in the Manchester Ship Canal, Ellesmere Port, River Mersey and Liverpool.

Run by the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society, the ship relies heavily on a dedicated team of nearly 100 volunteers, including skilled boat skippers, engineers, deckhands, fundraisers and educators. So successful is the group, that it has just been awarded a coveted National Historic Ships UK Volunteering Team prize, in recognition of its valuable work to combat isolation and develop wellbeing, particularly during the Covid pandemic.

Director Andrea Ward said: "We can't wait to get this amazing ship back on the water and give people the thrill of enjoying a wonderful cruise through beautiful countryside again. The last couple of years have been very difficult, so it's fantastic to win the Historic Ships Volunteering Team Award in recognition of our incredible team who have kept the Danny and each other afloat through trying times.

"Our 2022 cruise schedule promises to be our biggest and most diverse yet. We are thrilled to link back up with the iconic Anderton Boat Lift on a regular basis this year, offering passengers a double historic waterways treat. It's also great to return to Liverpool's Royal Albert Dock for a couple of visits this year too.



“With so many events and experiences cancelled over the last two years, we look forward to sailing full steam ahead in 2022, welcoming lots of new guests on board, extending our schools and training programme and making the most of this special historic steamship.”

The Danny is looking for new recruits to join its award-winning volunteering team. Anyone interested is invited to attend an introductory recruitment event at Sutton Weaver Parish Hall on Wednesday 23 March, 11am – 1pm. For more information contact Danny Volunteer Coordinator Bob Cannell. Email bob.cannell@danieladamson.co.uk.

Cruise tickets start from £40. For more details about individual cruises and to book tickets, visit the website: www.thedanny.co.uk.

Ends

For further information, photos or to arrange press trips, please contact Danny PR consultant, Lynn Pegler, Pegler Communications. Email: lynn@peglercommunications.co.uk. Tel 07783 686246 or Georgia Hayes, Danny Marketing Manager. Email: Georgia.Hayes@danieladamson.co.uk

Notes to Editors

History of the Daniel Adamson Steamship

The Daniel Adamson Steamship is the last surviving steam-powered tug built on the Mersey and is part of the official National Historic Fleet, alongside such famous ships as the Cutty Sark and SS Great Britain.

Built in 1903, the vessel was originally named the Ralph Brocklebank. Its first job was to transport passengers and goods along the River Mersey between the terminus of the inland canal network at Ellesmere Port and the international docks in Liverpool. At 200 tons, the tug had the capacity to tow 10 loaded barges (Mersey Flats) and carry up to 100 passengers. During the First World War, she also had a brief spell working for the Royal Navy as an unarmed patrol boat around the Liverpool coast.

In 1922 the ship was sold to the Manchester Ship Canal Company, which initially used her as an operational tug. She was renamed after the canal's founding father and company chairman Daniel Adamson and in 1935 was transformed into their VIP hospitality ship, complete with opulent Art Deco lounges.

By the 1970s, trade on the ship canal was in decline and in 1984 the vessel was withdrawn from service and heading for the scrapyard. Dan Cross, a professional Mersey tug skipper, led a remarkable rescue mission to save and restore the unique coal-fired steamship. Supported by dozens of passionate volunteers, he formed the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society in 2004 and thanks to a £3.8million Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the Danny underwent a painstaking transformation at Cammell Laird ship builders in Birkenhead.

Since 2016, the beautiful historic vessel has been run as a passenger cruise ship, mostly operated by dedicated volunteers – tickets helping to offset the annual running costs of c.£250,000. The group also has close links with many schools, colleges and youth groups and runs a variety of tours, training courses and education events.