

## Sale time for Queen Mary

by [Vivienne Nicoll](#)

A CLYDE-BUILT steamer, which carried thousands of Glaswegians "doon the watter", has been put up for sale.

The Queen Mary, which was built by William Denny of Dumbarton, was launched in March 1933.

She sailed the Clyde for 44 years and was finally retired in September 1977.

A few years later the steamer was given a new lease of life when she was bought by Bass Leisure Retail and taken to London, where she became a floating pub and restaurant.

However, the old lady now has to leave her current mooring at Victoria Embankment opposite the world-famous Savoy Hotel.

She's been put up for sale at almost £155,000.

The boat is being marketed by Richard Lane, of Capital Boats, who said the response had been "overwhelming".

He added: "Our website had 5000 hits within 36 hours of advertising the vessel.

"I have had calls from around the world including Texas, France and Greece from people saying they love this ship.

"I've had a fantastic, overwhelming response to this vessel.

"Vessels of this age and pedigree are a very important part of maritime history and to have a vessel like the Queen Mary in your harbour is a very attractive proposition.

"It has massive tourist potential and will generate a lot of visitors.

"I've not had this amount of interest in any other vessel and must admit I've been taken aback."

In her heyday, the 871-ton Queen Mary carried 2086 passengers and was the largest engine-driven excursion boat on the Clyde.

She operated from Glasgow Bridge Wharf down the river to Dunoon, Rothesay, Largs and Millport.

In 1935 she changed her name to the Queen Mary II at the request of the Cunard White Star Line.

It wanted to name its new vessel, which was being built on the Clyde by John Brown shipyard, after Queen Mary, who was to launch it.

The Queen Mary II reverted to her original name when the famous passenger liner was turned into a floating museum, hotel and conference centre at Long Beach, California.

The Clyde steamer, which was originally powered by three turbines, was regarded as one of the finest of her type and was the last to survive in operation.

She's now the last remaining ship of her class in the UK and possibly anywhere in the world.

Fans of the steamer have urged Culture and Sport Glasgow to secure the future of the Queen Mary by buying her to add to the collection of the new Riverside Museum.

A spokesman for the organisation said: "The new Riverside Museum will celebrate the Clyde's engineering and maritime traditions and the Queen Mary's story is a part of that heritage.

"Many Glaswegians have fond memories of going doon the watter' on the steamer.

"But as with every request of this nature, it will be evaluated by our conservation and curatorial team on its own merits."

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Posted by: man from plaid, toronto canada on 11:17am Fri 6 Mar 09

lets hope it comes back tothe clyde

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Posted by: jrb, glasgow on 11:21am Fri 6 Mar 09

Easy solution ,the Clyde, maritime museum,evening times campaign,public support,a commitment by a council to preserve and maintain a part of the shipbuilding heritage of the clyde.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Heidthebaw, Glasgow on 11:43am Fri 6 Mar 09

Not the Queen Mary I was thinking of.

Given the shameful lack of support given to the Waverley, I doubt they will get anywhere with trying to buy the QM in this climate.

The council and government talks freely about our great and unique shipping heritage, but when it comes to putting their hand in their pocket their arms are too short.

I'm afraid any project to buy the QM won't float and despite a titanic effort it will sink without trace.

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Posted by: jim, Glasgow on 11:54am Fri 6 Mar 09

Yes it will sink just like the carrick before it.no thanks to the council.Prob better stay well clear.

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Posted by: indigo\_matt, Glasgow on 12:11pm Fri 6 Mar 09

"....Given the shameful lack of support given to the Waverley, I doubt they will get anywhere with trying to buy the QM in this climate...."

True, is not like it or the Waverley can nowadays sail into city; the arch bridge by the SECC is too low.....was the cheap dull uninspired option and now with the new footbridge in the centre, again the cheap uninspired option.....how many brown envelopes changed hands for theses two carbuncles.....

Glasgow City Council have turned the Clyde in the city into a stagnant pool....shame on them.....dull non-descript, non-Scottish architecture that makes the city look terrible and poor.....

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: The X Factor, Glasgow on 12:53pm Fri 6 Mar 09

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Thought not!

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£1

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absolutely right about the bridges. Glasgow has a world famous river with almost no boats on it.

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Posted by: Ross, Glasgow on 2:05pm Fri 6 Mar 09

The Centre of the World for Shipbuilding and not a Civilian ship in sight. How Pathetic is that. It is as if our city fathers are ashamed of our Great Shipbuilding past. The old John Brown Shipyard should have housed a National Maritime Museum paid for by London.

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Posted by: jrb, glasgow on 2:38pm Fri 6 Mar 09

**The X Factor** wrote:

**indigo\_matt** wrote: "...Given the shameful lack of support given to the Waverley, I doubt they will get anywhere with trying to buy the QM in this climate...." True, is not like it or the Waverley can nowadays sail into city; the arch bridge by the SECC is too low.....was the cheap dull uninspired option and now with the new footbridge in the centre, again the cheap uninspired option.....how many brown envelopes changed hands for these two carbuncles..... Glasgow City Council have turned the Clyde in the city into a stagnant pool.....shame on them.....dull non-descript, non-Scottish architecture that makes the city look terrible and poor.....

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What your got to remember here is that the citezens of Glasgow have had no say or been consulted on any developement on the clyde be it housing or leisure.Glasgow City Council have tried to eradicate the working class culture of the clyde and replace it with a quick buck, quick build dream that will last as long as some of the eyesores dotting the clydeside.And finally if they are going to build bridges at least give them names that mean something to the people of glagow,the new pedestrian bridge at tradeston should be named "the Benny Parsonsage Bridge" after one of it's finest citezens!

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Posted by: AliCat, Glesga on 2:38pm Fri 6 Mar 09

Someone tell a government lackie it's really SS ArBaws it was last painted by Titian, and is being sold by hard up toff Lord Snooty of Bunkerton Castle, ... you'd get the money no questions asked.

On a more realistic note, oi bosh Duke of 'loads of money' Sutherland, get your 'wodge' out and stump up for a good cause ... you transport sheep on it! I won't hold my breathe ... Why do we buy POSH 'toys' that a small minority of people will get pleasure from; when we could be saving a true treasure that LOADS of people would get a great deal of pleasure from?

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Posted by: BlueNess1873, Inverness on 3:17pm Fri 6 Mar 09

This great paddle steamer "TS Queen Mary"was built by William Denny on the river Leven, so it isnt actually "Clyde built" as such ...still it should be brought home and preserved as part of Dumbartons great shipbuilding heritage.

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Posted by: wild wadi, kirkie on 3:53pm Fri 6 Mar 09

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How about the Petticoat Dan Bridge after one of Kirkies finest citizens?

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Posted by: WestEnder, Glasgow on 4:08pm Fri 6 Mar 09

The real scandal is still that the Britannia ended up in leith and not back on the Clyde where she was born. Absolutly shocking that a place with no connection to the ship got it when Glasgow lacks any real example of the great ships it once made.

This looks like a nice wee boat and for £150k we should snap it up. Whats more we should get government cash to do so.

the Clyde is depressingly bare!

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Posted by: jkr, Lochwinnoch Greater Glasgow on 4:09pm Fri 6 Mar 09

The Queen Mary must come back to the Clyde and the new transport museum would be the right place for its berth. We should have had the Royal Yacht there also.

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Posted by: The X Factor, Glasgow on 4:42pm Fri 6 Mar 09

the royal yacht!

give me a minute to look for my exocet

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: The X Factor, Glasgow on 4:43pm Fri 6 Mar 09

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fair enough comment!

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: The X Factor, Glasgow on 4:45pm Fri 6 Mar 09

**BlueNess1873** wrote:

This great paddle steamer "TS Queen Mary"was built by William Denny on the river Leven, so it isnt actually "Clyde built" as such ...still it should be brought home and preserved as part of Dumbartons great shipbuilding heritage.

good point and true enough of course but the leven feeds into the clyde and all the yards were known as clyde yards.

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Posted by: Harry, Glasgow on 4:56pm Fri 6 Mar 09

**BlueNess1873** wrote:

This great paddle steamer "TS Queen Mary"was built by William Denny on the river Leven, so it isnt actually "Clyde built" as such ...still it should be brought home and preserved as part of Dumbartons great shipbuilding heritage.

Just a minute BlueNess1873. The Queen Mary/Queen Mary 11 we're talking about here isn't a paddle steamer, but she's my all time favourite Clyde "steamer" -- streets ahead of all the others. Let's hope she can be brought back where she belongs.

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Posted by: wild wadi, kirkie on 6:22pm Fri 6 Mar 09

Send it to doo buy and turn it into a sooper de lux 5 star hotel.

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Posted by: Titus a duxas, Ft.McMurray on 8:34pm Fri 6 Mar 09

**The X Factor** wrote:

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all those who want to sink money into the old tub in question, wave your cheque books in the air.

Thought not!

Ah don't live there but ah'm proud tae come from Glasgow, ah think these boat's should be Gifted back tae Scotland. but seeing as it's owned by English punters. Fat Chance. Anywhoo ah'll Parp a \$100 in tae get the ball rollin" if somebody will set up a LEGIT charity.

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Posted by: No 6, frankie@t-bird.freereserve.co.uk on 10:32pm Fri 6 Mar 09

Sept 12th 1977

The Queen Mary does her last day's cruise on the Clyde finishing with a Showboat to the Kyles of Bute from Largs, and a handful of us sail on the empty ship back to Gourock - round the piano.

Fast forward thirty two years and she has been owned by Glasgow museum - sold, gutted, served as a restaurant, but is once again up for grabs.

The government talks about pump priming - tourism being back home this year - creating local jobs, preserving technical expertise.

Well - Mr Brown, or Mr Salmond

How about bringing back Scotland's last turbine - equipping her with today's propulsion technology and contemporary furnishings and catering, and sailing her right around the Scottish coasts, highlands and islands, cities and villages.

Norway has the Hurtigruten why can't Scotland have its Queen???

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Posted by: brandane, Auckland, New Zealand on 3:04am today

I agree she should return to the Clyde and to the city of Glasgow ~ which will always be her home ~ she should never have been allowed to leave the city when she was retired from Calmac. She was always my favourite turbine ~ and all the years she was berthed on the Thames ~ she was always my favourite London pub but I would rather visit her on the Clyde and enjoy good Scottish hospitality. Just imagine her berthed at the Broomielaw in the livery of Williamson-Buchanan and relive the nostalgic "doon-the-watter" sailings. Perhaps funds from the Heritage Fund would be appropriate to bring 'our steamer home'

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Posted by: man from plaid, toronto canada on 5:22am today

well mr salmond talk to 007 and see if he can help

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: jim, Glasgow on 8:14am today

**WestEnder** wrote:

The real scandal is still that the Britannia ended up in leith and not back on the Clyde where she was born. Absolutely shocking that a place with no connection to the ship got it when Glasgow lacks any real example of the great ships it once made. This looks like a nice wee boat and for £150k we should snap it up. Whats more we should get government cash todo so. the Clyde is depressingly bare!

Edinburgh has always tried to emulate Glasgow, its flattering watching them play catch up.

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