

# Conserving, Restoring and Adapting the Explorer



The fish lab



Engine room



Anchor windlass



## What the SS Explorer Preservation Society needs now.

To bring SS Explorer through the first phase of restoration, the ship and the SS Explorer Preservation Society, need the following:

- **Funds of about £200,000** to dry dock the ship, clean the hull back to the metal, repaint the hull and carry out a complete technical survey of the condition of the vessel. The results of the technical survey would indicate how much further restoration is needed, and what further funding is required.
- **Funds of about £125,000** to adapt the interior, insert the ship into the context of Leith and Scotland's maritime history and heritage, and make her available as an educational resource and visitor attraction.
- **New board members** with relevant expertise and experience in areas including finance, fund raising, marketing, interpretation and project management.
- **A permanent publicly-accessible berth.** As the ship is currently berthed in Leith, this would be the most appropriate, favoured and practical place for a new berth, if one could be found.

## Working to secure the future of the ship

The SS Explorer Preservation Society is actively working to secure the future of the ship. To do that, we are aiming to give her back a purpose and make her an integral part of Leith and its community. We want the ship to become an educational resource, an asset for youth engagement and an interactive heritage attraction, alive with all the noise, smells and atmosphere of a ship at sea, as well as the history of the yard and people that built her. Opportunities will be created for participation in the arts by presenting *SS Explorer* as a filming and drawing location, and as an exhibition space.

The essentials of the ship are still in place – for example, the propulsion system from fuel bunkers to propeller is intact. Some other aspects have been affected by time and are in need of restoration.

## Immediate tasks

The immediate task for the Society is to have the ship's hull cleaned off and coated to stabilise it. Whilst the ship is in dry dock, other work could be carried out to secure the integrity of the hull and a thorough technical survey made.

Thereafter, the Society will be working on the premise that the ship can take on the role of an iconic platform for illustrating aspects of:

- Scottish ship building and engineering
- Steam propulsion
- Deep-sea trawling and its hazards
- Marine science and ecology
- Fisheries research
- Navigation in Arctic Seas (during the Cold War)
- *SS Explorer's* own story

All these themes – brought to life within the sights, sounds and smells of the ship and sea – will make for a highly atmospheric visitor experience. Other uses such as a small events venue, an educational 'learn away' resource etc. are envisaged.

