



Technical Bulletin

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer Edition

Issue 1 Volume 3

Deputy Chairs Message

Welcome to the Summer edition of our quarterly technical bulletins. This quarter we have been in lockdown so no work has been carried out. However, I am happy to report there has been no leaks from the monkey island either.



We have been working hard to bring as much of the SS Explorer online as well as we can so people can still enjoy and take part in activities from their own home.

If there's anything that you'd like to see in the Technical Bulletin then let me know, I'm always happy to hear your comments and feedback.

3 Year Technical Plan

With no work happening on the ship the technical committee has been busy drafting a 3 year technical plan for the SS Explorer. The initial work will focus on the health, safety and welfare tasks that need to be completed before new volunteers can work onboard the vessel, and in parallel some of the identified high priority stabilization work that needs to get done.

Year 2 and 3 are less well defined and reflect more what we hope to achieve in those years rather than a definitive plan. These focus more on the main preservation tasks and will be dependent on being able to complete the tasks in year 1 as well as being able to raise the required funds.

There will be a major review of the plan 3 months before the end of each year. This will be when the detailed plan for the following year will be drafted.

What we are doing during this crisis

The board has been strengthened as we have gone through training and we continue to develop procedures and policy's to formalize and improve how the Society operates.

There have also been a couple of very constructive meetings with Forth Ports.

We have also welcomed some new members with marketing and IT backgrounds to the Society so expect to see new things happening in the near future.

You have helped by writing reviews of past tours on Trip Advisor. This has propelled the Explorer up the chart of popular tourist attractions in Edinburgh, now ranking 257 out of 464.

We took part in the online Leith festival this year, with our primary school activity sheet.

There's still been plenty of posts on the Society webpage blog.

The Society also won a National Historic Ship UK Regional Flag ship award for our online work. The award includes a special flag plus £250 prize money for the Society. Look out for a date for the official flag raising.

STEM Academy & the SS Explorer Marine Engineering Challenge

The SS Explorer developed a marine engineering challenge activity to be included in the first online STEM Academy Scotland run by Glasgow University and Edinburgh Napier. The Academy runs for a full year and has 26 workshops which can be carried out both at home and in school.

The Explorer activity has students building a boat and finding out about density, a more advanced activity has students build a water sample collector to simulate the sampling work the Explorer carried out. The final challenge activity has the students building the most economical boat they can, and testing designs against each other.

So far the response has been great. In the first month of the Academy there were over 4000 site visitors and over 500 workshops completed. The Academy has also had a much wider reach and includes schools in Southampton and in Ireland.

A Bit of Archeology

To communicate engine speeds from the wheelhouse to the boiler and engine rooms a telegraph was used. The wheelhouse would move the lever on the bridge telegraph to the required speed.

This moved the pointers on the telegraphs in the boiler and engine rooms, and rang a bell to let engineers know there was a new speed requirement.



The engine room would confirm the new order by moving their lever to the matching position. The boiler room only had a telegraph repeater (shown above) and were not required to confirm an order. The fires in the boiler would be adjusted for the new speed and in the engine room the throttle valve would be adjusted to put more or less steam to the engine.

Important Dates

At the moment all dates are provisional, but watch this space for updates. Some new events may be listed as lockdown continues to ease.

SS Explorer AGM – 26th September

UK Maritime Heritage Forum – Portsmouth – 30th - 2nd October 2020

RINA historic ships – London – 2nd & 3rd December 2020

Volunteers

While many of our volunteers may be eager to get back onboard the Society has a duty of care to make sure it is safe to do so.

We have carried out a risk assessment and have identified various safety measures and new working practices that need to be put in place before volunteers can return to work onboard.

Part of this will include a new Covid Induction form that all volunteers must complete, sign, scan and return to the Society before coming back to the ship.

There will be more details sent out before the ship reopens to our existing volunteers.

Contact Us

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