



Monday 23rd January 2012

Turks confirmed for Diamond Jubilee Pageant

Turk Launches, Kingston's 300-year-old River Thames passenger boat operator, has confirmed its participation in the Queen's Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant on Sunday 3rd June. New Southern Belle, a Mississippi style paddle steamer, and Yarmouth Belle, a traditional English side wheeler built in 1892, will both be taking part in the pageant, which will see a thousand boats gather on the River Thames.

Richard Turk, Managing Director of Turk Launches, says "Coming from a family of Royal Watermen, I am especially proud to have been selected to be a part of the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This will be a one off historic event and Turks will be showcasing its two paddle steamers with enormous pride as part of the procession down the River Thames."

The celebration for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be the largest flotilla in modern times on the river with rowing boats, working boats and pleasure vessels of all shapes and sizes beautifully dressed with streamers and Union Jacks, stretching for an estimated twelve and a half miles.

It has proved extremely popular with three boats applying for every place. The pageant organisers and representatives from the river community were involved in the selection process which included considering safety, fitness-for-purpose and range of vessel type as well as exploring whether the vessel was of historical significance or had an interesting story to tell. At the end of 2011, organisers confirmed to the lucky applicants the boats which will take part in this historic event.

Turk Launches, who own New Southern Belle and Yarmouth Belle, are delighted to have been selected to take part in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. They are two of the pleasure vessels, which have been privately hired to participate in the flotilla and they will be host to a number of VIP guests travelling along the route from Battersea to Greenwich.

Every vessel will proudly take its place in the flotilla alongside Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family aboard the Royal Barge, *The Spirit of Chartwell*. It will be a once in a lifetime moment for us aboard New Southern Belle and Yarmouth Belle as part of this glorious moment in our rich royal history.