



## 'Yotties' lead the way in Britannia's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

In this the year of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, The Royal Yacht Britannia is hosting a very special week on board. The teak decks will be bustling with the padding plimsoles of 65 former Royal Yachtsmen who are returning to their duties on Britannia once again.



The Royal Yachtsmen or 'Yotties', as they are affectionately known, pictured here in 2016, will don their white overalls and return to Britannia to mark The Queen's 70 year reign. Photograph: Tony Marsh.

**From 30 May – 3 June, former crew of The Queen's beloved Royal Yacht return for 'Yotties Week'.** Chefs, Engineers, Seamen and Butlers slip easily back into their former duties. From helping maintain the Royal Barge and cooking 'Pusser's Grub' in the original Royal Galleys, to touching up paint work and overseeing the gleaming Engine Room.

Working alongside the current Maintenance Team, the Royal Yachtsmen, or 'Yotties' as they are known, help with the conservation of the 69-year-old Yacht, as well as sharing their first-hand experiences of life on board as Britannia travelled over one million miles around the world.

From helping maintain the Royal Barge and cooking 'Pusser's Grub' in the original Royal Galleys, to sanding deck boards and touching up paint work – the Chefs, Engineers, Seamen and Royal Stewards slip easily back into their former roles.

Visitors to Britannia will have the opportunity to chat to the Yotties and discover what made Britannia so special to all who knew her.

As well as all the hard work, there will also be time for reviving some of Britannia's traditions, including a morning hymn and the historic daily rum ceremony at 4pm.

While in Royal Service, 220 crew lived and worked on board and their orders were nothing less than to **‘strive for daily perfection’**.

Chief Executive, Bob Downie, thoroughly enjoys the buzz and camaraderie that the Yotties bring to Britannia during their time here, he said, “The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee is a perfect time for the Yotties to return to Britannia. It’s lovely to hear their stories of life on board”.

**Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Britannia will also include the following:**

- Celebratory dishes and cocktails in our Royal Deck Tea Room
- The Royal Collection’s Official Platinum Jubilee China will be available in our Gift Shop
- Musical entertainment for visitors in The State Apartments on June 2
- A city-wide Corgi Treasure Hunt

**PHOTO AND MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE. Yotties are available for interview.**

30 May – 3 June

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**Notes for Editors:**

- Britannia is the official headquarters of the Association of Royal Yachtsmen.
- An unforgettable attraction for visitors, as well as a prestigious evening events venue, Britannia is regarded as one of Edinburgh’s ‘must-see’ destinations. Britannia was home to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family for over 40 years, sailing over one million miles around the world. Following The Yacht’s decommissioning in 1997, Britannia is now berthed in Edinburgh, where visitors can follow in the footsteps of Royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of Royal residences. Highlights include the teak-panelled Sun Lounge and elegant State Dining Room, which contrast dramatically with the working side of the ship and the crew’s quarters.
- The Royal Yacht Britannia is owned by a charitable trust (SC028070) and all surplus funds are reinvested in protecting her for future generations. The Trust’s responsibility is to maintain and preserve Britannia in keeping with her former role and to display her to the public as a key part of British maritime history. The Trust is a wholly self-funding, not-for-profit, charitable organisation.
- Providing the highest standards of customer experience to every visitor, regardless of age or ability, is at the heart of Britannia’s success, and recent developments have included the audio guide being available in British Sign Language, Braille and 30 languages, making it one of the most translated tours in the world.