

Historic Ship

Built in 1946 by Lytham Shipbuilding & Engineering, *SS Freshspring* is recognised as being of national historical significance on the National Register of Historic vessels.

She was the last of 14 Fresh Class water carriers, all of which were 121 feet in length and were powered by a triple expansion steam engine. Her duty was to replenish Naval ships with fresh water for use in boilers. She also acted as a fire tender when required.

After commissioning, she sailed to Malta where she remained on station until she returned to the Clyde, working from Greenock, until 1979 when she was sold out of service and towed to Bristol for preservation. Here she was steamed a few times.

Steamship Freshspring Society

The society is a not for profit organisation with the aim to return *SS Freshspring* to operation, preserving the past and inspiring knowledge for the future. *SS Freshspring* is a unique example of steamships of the first half of the last century. They were principally built by craftsmen using manual skills and labour, with few parts being mass-produced.

SS Freshspring therefore spans two industrial periods, that of traditional manual skills grounded in experience passed down from generation to generation over hundreds of years; and the modern period where technology and newly acquired knowledge have come to the fore.

Passenger Carrying

SS Freshspring will be sympathetically converted to carry cruise passengers in comfortable, well appointed cabins along with seafaring cadets or volunteers accommodated in dedicated cabins.

Education

The major objective of the trust is to inspire and educate all people, in particular young people where support and guidance will be given to encourage them to consider valuable, rewarding careers in the maritime sector and in engineering, sectors where shortages and opportunities exist. Projects will include onboard activities as well as academic and practical, educational school, college and university projects, leading to informed career choices.

Membership

The commitment of members is vital to achieving the Trust's aim to stimulate interest in maritime heritage, inspiring educational objectives and securing a long term sustainable future for *SS Freshspring*. As a member, you will receive notification of member events and regular printed newsletters.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a vital resource to the Trust achieving its aims. There are many essential ways to volunteer depending on your interests. For example, administration, fundraising, attending events, public relations, maritime skills, educational experience, finance, legal and procurement.

Working volunteers are welcome and considerably contribute to ongoing restoration. There is a great variety of tasks, no matter what your ability, both ashore and onboard.

Please contact us if you would like to volunteer. We can then discuss what will be appropriate and enjoyable for you. Even an hour a week will make a difference and the ongoing sense of achievement as a contributor to this exciting project will be a just reward.

