



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dr Paul Atterbury - Antiques Roadshow expert to become patron of the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society**

**Liverpool April 6<sup>th</sup> 2010**

ANTIQUES Roadshow expert Paul Atterbury has agreed to become the patron for the campaign to restore Britain's last steam-powered tug tender, the Daniel Adamson, and he hopes to be more than just a figurehead for the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society.

Dr Paul Atterbury, a Roadshow expert of twenty years standing who appears regularly on this long running and popular TV programme, has been enthusiastic about transport history all his life, with an emphasis on trains and boats.

He has explored most of Britain's navigable waterways and is a Vice President of the Waterways Trust. On the Antiques Roadshow he specialises in the art and design of the 19th and 20th centuries, and has also worked on other TV and Radio programmes, including a recent BBC4 series on liners.

Paul is a lecturer and writer, with over 30 books to his credit, mostly on ceramics, canals and railways. He researched and wrote, with Andrew Darwin, the first series of Nicholson's Guide to the Waterways. He has also worked as an exhibition curator, notably with the Victoria & Albert Museum in London where he was responsible for Pugin: A Gothic Passion in 1994 and The Victorian Vision in 2001.

For Paul, the restoration of the Daniel Adamson is a very exciting project. He said: "I am delighted to be involved with the Daniel Adamson, a project that brings together three of my great interests, steam power, maritime and waterway history and Art Deco, the design style of the 1920s and 1930s.

"No surviving vessel can better express both the vitality of the canal age and the stylish elegance of the 1930s ocean liner, and for this reason the restoration of the Daniel Adamson is for me Britain's most important maritime conservation project."

The Edwardian tug tender Daniel Adamson was built in 1903, at Tranmere, Birkenhead, for the Shropshire Union Railway & Canal Co.

Initially placed on ferry and barge towing between Ellesmere Port and Liverpool, it was sold to the Manchester Ship Canal Co in 1922. Rebuilt as the directors' inspection vessel, an art deco-style, double-deck passenger saloon was incorporated, which was inspired by Cunard Line's first Queen Mary and fitted out by the same company that built the 1934 super liner - John Brown & Co, Clydebank. After a long lay-up, the ship is undergoing total restoration at Sandon Dock, Liverpool, for public excursions on the Rivers Mersey, Weaver and MSC.

Dan Cross, DAPS chairman, said: "On behalf of the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society, I am delighted that Paul has accepted our invitation to become our patron.

"His clear passion for everything embodied within Daniel Adamson shines through with his unfaltering support and enthusiasm. When seeking a patron for a project, it is vitally important that the person invited to fill such a role is seen to be more than just a name, with Paul we certainly have a Patron who is determined to assist in taking the project forward. I look forward to working with Paul through this vitally important time for the Daniel Adamson, leading up to full restoration and safe guarding the vessel's future for future generations to enjoy."

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Attachments to media release:

Two B+W photographs of the art-deco saloons taken after their completion in 1936.

Two color photographs of the Daniel Adamson in 1981 on the Manchester Ship Canal

One B+W image of the Daniel Adamson in 1947 pictured tied up at Liverpool's famous landing stage.

#### **Note to editors:**

- Daniel Adamson is Britain's only steam-powered, coal-fired tug-tender. The ship was built as Ralph Brocklebank, by the Tranmere Bay Development Co, at Birkenhead, Wirral in 1903.
- With two sister ships, the tug-tender ran a passenger ferry and barge towing service for her owners, the Shropshire Union Railway & Canal Co, from its Ellesmere Port terminus to Manchester Dock, Liverpool.
- In 1922 the ship was sold to the Manchester Ship Canal Co.
- In 1936 a lavish art deco style double-deck saloon was fitted by John Brown & Co, Clyde side, and, although badly water damaged, will be restored to its original state. She was at this time, re-named in honour of the first Chairman of the Ship Canal Co.
- The MSC laid-up Daniel Adamson in 1984 after the boiler required repair work and the vessel was moved to Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.
- However, when MSC decided to scrap the vessel after vandalism problems, the current trust was formed and bought the ship for £1 in 2004.
- Daniel Adamson is scheduled to be returned to working order in 2012.
- Following successful trials, Daniel Adamson will start carrying the public in 2012 for trips on the River Mersey, River Weaver and Manchester Ship Canal.