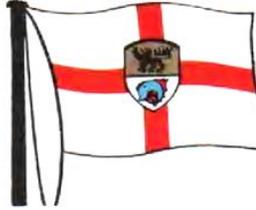


# The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships



*Hon. Admiral – HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO*

*Commodore – Mr Richard Basey*

*Vice Commodore – Mr Ian Gilbert*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Dunkirk Little Ships Assembling For Queen's Jubilee**

1 March 2012 - The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships (ADLS) is pleased to announce details of its participation in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

In the week leading up to the Pageant, 45 Dunkirk Little Ships will make their way to Barn Elms Reach on the Thames near Putney. From there they will assemble into the largest single class of powered boats taking part in the Pageant before heading downstream immediately behind the Royal Section. A further 5 Little Ships will be taking part in the Avenue of Sail.

The boats taking part will be coming from all over Britain and share a common link in having assembled to assist Royal Navy and Merchant Navy vessels in evacuating the 338,000 British and French troops from Dunkirk in 1940 (twelve years before Her Majesty ascended the throne). While a great number of the 700-odd ships that took part in the evacuation have been lost, many have survived and are lovingly cared for by their present owners.

The gathering in June will be the largest since the Little Ships returned to Dunkirk in 2010.

On behalf of the ADLS, its Commodore Mr Richard Basey said: "We are very proud that such a large proportion of the surviving Little Ships are able to take part in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. We wish Her Majesty The Queen the very best in this her Diamond Jubilee Year. Members are very much looking forward to taking part in this spectacular celebration of her reign and the maritime history of Great Britain and the Commonwealth."

Following the Pageant on Monday the 4th of June, the Association will be holding its annual service commemorating Dunkirk at West India Dock in East London. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

**Ends**

### **For more information about the ADLS contact:**

Mr Jason Carley, PRO, 07919 54 7753, [PRO@adls.org.uk](mailto:PRO@adls.org.uk)

For further information or to keep up to date on the ADLS' participation in the pageant please refer to [www.adls.org.uk](http://www.adls.org.uk), or follow us on twitter @Dunkirk\_Ships.

### **Further information for journalists about the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant, contact:**

Michelle Lavipour, Executive, Pagefield, 020 3327 4058, [michelle.lavipour@pagefield.co.uk](mailto:michelle.lavipour@pagefield.co.uk)

Stephanie Shepherd, Executive, Pagefield, 020 3327 4065 [stephanie.shepherd@pagefield.co.uk](mailto:stephanie.shepherd@pagefield.co.uk)

Information and press materials about the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant are available from [www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org](http://www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org)