

SIX OF THE BEST FABULOUS VESSELS THAT WILL TAKE TO THE THAMES



GLORIANA

Powered by 18 oarsmen – including Olympic medal-winning rowers Sir Steve Redgrave and Sir Matthew Pinsent – this 88ft row-barge leads the flotilla behind the Jubilee Bells. The first royal barge to be built in 100 years, it was created by master craftsman Mark Edwards in his Richmond boatyard. Featuring sweet chestnut sourced from the Duchy of Cornwall, the private estate of the Prince of Wales, it features sculptures of a mermaid and a sea serpent and is adorned with £4,000 worth of gold leaf.

BELEEM

Starting life as a merchant ship, this three-masted vessel was bought in 1914 by the second Duke of Westminster, who transformed her into a luxury yacht. During the pageant, Europe's oldest tall ship still operating at sea will be one of the 105 boats situated in the one-mile Avenue of Sail. Moored from Wapping to London Bridge, the avenue will form a stunning channel through which smaller vessels will pass.

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BLUEBIRD OF CHELSEA

One of 40 Dunkirk Little Ships taking part in the pageant, she was commissioned by Sir Malcolm Campbell, the legendary racing motorist who also set the world water speed record four times in the *Bluebird K4*. (All his boats and cars were called *Bluebird* because he thought the name lucky.) She made four trips to Dunkirk during the Second World War to rescue soldiers on the beaches and also transported troops, food and equipment.

THE WORCESTER BUSTERS

One of 13 dragon boats taking part in the pageant, and crewed by breast cancer survivors. At the helm – and drum – will be the inspirational Helen Cleaver of Worcester. She has battled breast cancer and secondary cancer, has been selected to carry the Olympic torch through Avon on 1 July.

AMAZON

Taking her place in the Avenue of Sail, this is the first of a fleet of 100 boats in the pageant to be present at Queen Victoria's Jubilee review of the fleet at Spithead in 1912. She was built in 1890 and has been afloat and under British ownership for more than 100 years. At one point a houseboat, she was sold to actor Arthur Lowe, who used her as a floating theatre for his touring coastal theatres. She has played host to thespians Peter O'Toole, John Le Mesurier and

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED

The Superhawk 34 driven by "Cigar girl", aka Maria Grazia Cucinotta, in the opening chase sequence on the Thames in the James Bond film *The World Is Not Enough*.