

TALES OF THE RIVERMAN 32



The Carrick



For most of my life, there was an old sailing ship lying at our Custom House Quay. Nearby were the heaps of sand and gravel unloaded onto the quay wall from small puffers that could make it up under the bridges. Children would play on these heaps and sadly slide off them and into the river. Ben Parsonage recovered many children, drowned at this locus. He rescued others from the river at this point, either by launching a boat from a trailer just downstream of the weir or at the George 5th Bridge. We also had accidents when crew men fell from the small ships like the SS Ardechy which was unloading at the Quay. During those searches, the boat we were using would be often tied overnight beside the Carrick and we got to know the staff and the Watchman quite well. One day Ben rescued a dog that was on a raft next to the Carrick. Towards the end of its time in Glasgow, the Carrick had a small dingy beside it and persons were frequently letting it loose on the river and we were called out at all times of the day and night to “recover” this boat. Also around this time Custom House Quay was “rebuilt”, boats no longer unloaded their cargos; the area had a bandstand, overhanging ledges shops and nightclubs. Nightclubs in close proximity to the river are a nightmare, and the area soon got a terrible reputation for persons “falling” off the “edge” into the water.



All this was just downstream of where the Carrick berthed. The area instead of being upgraded had declined, and many persons no longer wished to visit this locus. The Carrick ceased to be the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Club.

The name Carrick is retained by the name “Carrick Quay”, but the upgrading of the actual river wall and the surrounding area still awaits the right developer.

The Carrick had been a clipper ship, launched on 7 May 1864. She sailed the British coast, the Atlantic, and transported passengers and goods between Britain and Australia





In 1893 she became a floating hospital in Southampton, and in 1923 was purchased by the Royal Navy. Converted as a training ship, renamed HMS *Carrick* she was based in Scotland until 1948 then decommissioned. Back to being named the Carrick, she was donated to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Club, and towed into central Glasgow for use as the club's headquarters.



She remained there until damaged in the 1990's.

She was moved to Princes Dock Glasgow.

She sank at her moorings.

She was then removed to the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine.



In 2010, the Scottish Government decided that the ship would go to Adelaide, to be preserved as a museum ship. In September 2013 the ship moved by barge from Scotland to the Netherlands to prepare for transport to Australia. In late November 2013, loaded on the deck of a cargo ship, *City of Adelaide* departed Europe bound for Port Adelaide, Australia, where she arrived on 3 February 2014.

“Last surviving clipper ship, the *City of Adelaide*, arrives back in South Australia...where a quarter of a million people can trace their origins back to passengers who travelled on the ship from Britain”

