



**BARCLAYS JERSEY
BOAT SHOW 2015**

SATURDAY 2 - MONDAY 4 MAY



**Jersey
BOAT SHOW 2015**

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NEWS RELEASE

Thursday 12 March 2015

Barclays Jersey Boat Show 2015 will benefit British Red Cross

Barclays has named the British Red Cross as the beneficiary of funds raised at the 2015 Barclays Jersey Boat Show. The choice was made to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the arrival in Jersey of the SS Vega, the Red Cross aid ship which provided a life-line for islanders during the Second World War.

The Normandy landings in June 1944 meant that the occupied islands were cut off from mainland Europe. With no supply lines islanders were left in a desperate situation. The SS Vega docked in St Helier on 30 December 1944 with much-needed supplies, such as food, soap and medication. The Red Cross also operated a postal message system allowing people to communicate with friends and relatives across the water.

To celebrate the anniversary, a six foot replica of the life-saving ship will be on display at the Red Cross stand for the duration of the Show, which will take place in and around St Helier Marina over the bank holiday weekend of 2-4 May. This coincides with the start of Red Cross Week – the charity's annual fundraising drive.

The British Red Cross helps millions of people in the UK and around the world to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, disasters and conflicts. The charity is part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian network and refuses to ignore people in crisis.

Last year, the Barclays Jersey Boat Show saw attendance figures in excess of 38,000 people. Now in its eighth year, it is the largest free-entry event in the Channel Islands and includes a programme of events and activities, both on and off the water, which will be announced in due course.

Bev Dallas-Chapman, community fundraiser for the British Red Cross in Jersey, said: “We are really excited to have been chosen as this year’s charity benefiting from funds raised at the Barclays Jersey Boat Show. The money raised will help us to do more of our vital work supporting people in crisis locally and overseas.

“The relationship between the Red Cross and the Channel Islands is a strong one thanks to the aid delivered by the SS Vega during the Second World War. It’s great to be associated with such a high-profile local event that helps us to commemorate that assistance and raise the profile of the work we do today.”

Barclays is the title sponsor of the Jersey Boat Show. Paul Savery, managing director of Barclays in Jersey, said, “It is fantastic that we can support a charity which has played such a vital part in Channel Islands history.

“The arrival of the SS Vega not only saved hundreds of lives but brought with it an important message of hope for islanders in a desperate situation. It is fitting that the Barclays Jersey Boat Show commemorates a ship which did so much for the island.

“At Barclays we are pleased that as well as raising money the Boat Show will promote awareness of the vital work the British Red Cross does all around the world.”

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