VENICE

Electrifying the floating city

A new initiative to electrify all of Venice's motorboats – private and commercial – has been launched by motorboat historian Kevin Desmond. The idea has attracted the support of electric vehicle associations and environmental campaigners around the world. Other waterside cities have similar schemes in the pipeline – Amsterdam aims to be fully electric by 2025. The team behind the initiative points to the fact that Venetian vaporetti (water buses) consume an estimated 21 million litres of diesel every year. The lagoon's waters also play host to 550 water taxis, 800 or so workboats and 350 private craft. To learn more or join the campaign, email desmond.book@wanadoo.fr.

CENTENARIANS
Greta
1892
Classic Boat

Oldest Dunkirk Little Ship

Greta is one of an active fleet of Thames sailing barges still sailing the Thames estuary. She was built in timber by Stone of Brightlingsea (Essex) and today resides in Faversham on the north Kent coast, under the care of her skipper and owner Steve Norris. In the days of sail cargo, her loads included ammunition, beer, grain, malt and building materials. In the war, she took part in Operation Dynamo, and is thought to be the oldest operational Dunkirk Little Ship. These days, she works as a charter boat. In this role, Thames sailing barges, with their huge converted holds and acres of deck space, are unbeatable. *Greta* is 80ft (24m) in length.

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