



The White Rose

### DETAILS

Function: Leisure Craft  
Subfunction: Yacht  
Location: Barrow-in-Furness  
Vessel type: Pleasure Yacht  
Current use: Ongoing conservation

### CONSTRUCTION

Builder: Ashburners, Richard, Barrow in Furness  
Built in: 1887  
Hull material: Wood  
Rig: Bermudan Cutter  
No of decks: 1  
No of masts: 1  
Propulsion: Motor  
No of engines: 1  
Primary engine type: Diesel

### DIMENSIONS

Breadth: Beam 7.61 feet (2.32m)  
Depth: 5.90 feet (1.80m)  
Length: Overall  
39.57 feet (12.07m)

## HISTORY

In 1899, WHITE ROSE was built in Barrow by the Ashburner Brothers as a gaff cutter. She was originally a 30 foot cutter of 6 tons, carrying just under 700 square feet of sail.

Before long, she was lengthened, three times, doubling her tonnage and bringing her to 39ft 6ins overall. With this increase in hull size came more sail, so that in her final form, the Ashburners raced her with two jibs, a gaff topsail and a mainsail totalling 900 square feet. The Ashburners, both in their sixties by then, raced her themselves and were invincible in local races.

Shortly after 1914, Thomas Ashburner died and WHITE ROSE was sold. Her new owner removed the keel in 1916 to take advantage of the inflated price of lead. In 1918, WHITE ROSE was sold again and not sailed until 1925.

She was then raffled, being in a decrepit state and was won by a local yachtsman, Dr. Coffey. She was refitted, but with an iron keel. She re-entered the local racing scene and won most of her races.

In 1928, WHITE ROSE won the record for the passage from Douglas to Piel Island. In 1943, Dr Coffey sold her for 1 shilling to Jack Taylor, who had previously helped to help crew her. She was then laid up until 1949 at Millom.

She was bought by Fred Rollinson from Jack Taylor and restored, but with a more modern sailplan of a 450 sq. ft. mainsail and 150 sq. ft. jib.

In 1973, WHITE ROSE won the Northwest Veterans and Old Gaffers Race and in 1987, Fred Rollinson sold her for £1 to the Furness Maritime Trust which became the Dock Museum.

On 24 April 2007, WHITE ROSE moved inside the Dock Museum, to the bottom floor. In November that year, phase one of her conservation started with: removal of paint, removal of interior (and storage) to enable inspection of frames and apron, removal of mild steel fixtures, removal (and storage) of rudder for inspection of shaft, removal of deck (and storage), cleaning of interior timbers by hand and sealing of all timbers. The following year, in November 2008, phase two continued with the structural stage. Work included removal of the deck, replacement of the rotten wood in the stern post with seasoned Cumbrian oak (as the original) and replacement of some metal frames with wood. The final phase was undertaken in 2009 and saw the project completed and she is now safeguarded for future generations.

## KEY DATES

1887: Designed, built and owned by Ashburner Brothers of Barrow in Furness

1887-1909: Took part in and won many races in area

1916: Sold during First World War and lead keel removed and sold for scrap

1925: Restored after being found semi-derelict and fitted with a new iron keel

1928: Set record of 6hr 5mins for passage between Douglas Isle of Man and Piel

1949: Bought by Fred Rollinson and refitted as a Bermudian cutter

1973: Won the North West Veterans and Old Gaffers Race

1988: Donated to Furness Maritime Trust

2007: Moved inside the Dock Museum, Barrow-in-Furness

2008: Decking removed, stern post wood replaced and some metal frames replaced with wood

2009: Conservation project completed and vessel on public display

