

A real star tern

A RARE Caspian tern caused a flap amongst bird-watchers when it turned up at Loch Lomond last week.

The seabird — which is normally found no closer than the shores of the Baltic and Black seas — was seen from Ring Point flying over Endrick Mouth nature reserve at noon on Saturday, June 19, before flying up the river and then heading for Balmaha.

This is the third time the species — the world's largest tern — has been seen at Endrick Mouth, with previous

occurrences in 1968 and 1976.

They can be distinguished from other tern species by their size and their black legs and long, thick red-orange bill with a small black tip.

Caspian terns also have a white head with a black cap and white neck, belly and tail.

They hover and then dive for fish and the birds' breeding habitat is large lakes coasts.

The birds are patchily distributed throughout the globe, with an estimated world population of 50,000-plus breeding pairs.

Artist Gordon is ship shape

Report:
**JULIAN
HEARNE**



WORLD renowned maritime artist Gordon Bauwens has just completed his biggest commission to date — a painting of the iconic Queen Elizabeth 2 which will take pride of place in the new Queen Elizabeth 2 due to come into service on October 12.

Gordon (58) spent about 700 hours to complete the 60 x 40 inch oil painting which depicts the ocean liner coming up the Clyde with the Isle of Bute in the background.

The Killearn resident said: "This has been one of my most ambitious works to date. Including the research it has taken me over three months to complete and will take pride of place on the Yacht Club deck."

Glasgow-born Gordon has a long association with the QE2 and Cunard — the company who own her — but declined to say how much they had paid for the painting.

He was a Glasgow schoolboy when she was launched in 1967 and was commissioned to paint the Queen Mary when she was launched in 2004.

The former graphic designer welcomed the QE2 back to the Clyde, along with many other Scots, on her last visit in 2008, adding: "I was on the island of Cumbrae and took photographs of the QE2 as she sailed up the Clyde for the last time. It was quite emotional."

QE3

The new Queen Elizabeth is being built in Italy and is unofficially being called QE3. Her maiden voyage will be from Southampton to the Canary Islands.

Gordon said: "I can trace my passion for Cunard ships back to early childhood. I clearly remember spotting the liner, Sylvania, fitting out at the John Brown shipyard in Clydebank from the decks of a Clyde steamer in the mid

1950's.

"Although only six-years-old at the time, it was love at first sight when I saw those gleaming Cunard colours and many childhood drawings of Cunard ships followed."

Later, as a teenage schoolboy, Gordon regularly cycled the 30-mile round trip from his home in the east of Glasgow to watch progress on the building of "Q4" at John Brown's yard before witnessing her launch as Queen Elizabeth 2 in September 1967.

This memorable event inspired his very first painting of QE2 shortly afterwards and kindled a lifelong passion for this legendary ship.

To celebrate Cunard's 150th Anniversary in 1990 Gordon's original painting of QE2's visit to the Clyde was purchased by the Company Chairman for his personal office in London and to date has no fewer than 17 art pieces permanently hanging aboard QM2 and Queen Victoria.





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The White Rooms say 'thank you'

TO thank all their customers for their custom throughout the past ten years The White Rooms beauty salon is offering a number of promotions from July 10 to the end of the month. These include — all clients receiving any treatment will be entered into a free prize draw and the lucky winner will be

treated to a courtesy spa treatment day at the White Rooms, the luxurious treatments will include the exciting new Bamboo massage, Jessica Geleration manicure and pedicure and a Darphin Predetermine facial accompanied with a champagne lunch. All clients receiving hot stone massages during July will be

entered into a secondary prize draw for a complimentary Bamboo massage. All clients will receive ten per cent off Jessica Geleration nails (for hands or feet), ten per cent off a Bamboo massage, ten per cent off Darphin facials and a free set of toe separators with all Jessica pedicures.

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