



Pin Mill Sailing Club



MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Commodore's Corner

Goodness me! March already -where is the year going?

Before I carry on this piece I would like to thank each and every one of you for continuing your Club membership for this year, and to those of you joining we wish you a warm welcome to the fold.

So, if like me, you boat owners amongst us are probably nearing the completion of fitting out, putting the paint brush away and booking your launch date - no !! I hear you say, you haven't even started yet?

Well, never mind, when you do, why not leave the pack up at home and find time to call in at the Club over a Sunday lunchtime sometime during the remainder of March and April and enjoy a fitting out lunch produced and served by a voluntary team of Club members. Bridie and Imre were kind enough to start the ball rolling with generous servings of Cottage pie and Apple crumble and custard, not together I might add and very good it was too.

Whilst on the subject of food etc. I must warn you that due to refurbishment work in our Club galley during the weekends of May 9/10 and May 16/17 this area along with the games room will not be accessible. Sorry for any inconvenience caused but I'm sure the finished galley installation will be well worth it.

A quick round up of what's been happening and what to look forward to –

Way back in January we celebrated in some style the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robbie Burns. Jo produced another of those 'its no hassle' meals for approx 60 of us, with proceedings introduced and carried on by Francis McMadden, Margaret Mc Bampton, Susan Mc Sinclair, me, Mc Humby and dancing lead by Eileen of the Madden Clan. This event is well worth booking up for next year.

Early February saw Andrew McIrvine, the Commodore of the RORC speak to us on the fascinating subject of Nelson's

Diary



Sunday March 15th

Meeting at 11.00 to plan
Family activities

Saturday 21st March

New Members' Evening
With a showing of the film
'Ha'penny Breeze'

Friday 10th April

Good Friday Working Party
Refreshments for the workers

Saturday 25th April

Fitting out supper
Tear-off Slip inside

Saturday 2nd May

New - Spring Party! From
4.30 'til late. Details inside

Saturday 16th May

4 Clubs River Series
Race 1 – RHYC Host

Saturday 23rd May

Bank Holiday Cruise
Deben and Backwaters

Friday 29th May

Family weekend Cruise to
Stone Point

The next Newsletter will be in May. Contributions please by 24th April to: circular@pmsc.org.uk Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EZ

injuries and how he may have fared with today's surgical methods. Surprisingly not very well so I am informed.

The 21st February was again another sell out crowd for the Indian night food evening.

Early March we welcomed Stuart Grimwade and Des 'the knot man' Pawson to the Club who talked and showed pictures on the 'Aspects of Maritime Ipswich and the Maritime trust. The evening concluded with Des demonstrating some practical rope work.

What to look forward to, firstly I would like to invite those of you who may not have received a formal invitation from myself to come along to the Club on **SUNDAY THE 15TH MARCH @ 11.00** to listen to a short presentation explaining the thought process behind a programme of events that have been proposed for our family and younger members for the coming year. This is a new initiative for the Club and cannot move forward without your support, so I very much hope to see many of you there.

As an added bonus the first lady and I are providing the fitting out lunch that day so Soup and Hot dogs all round.

For those of you who have not seen the film 'Ha'penny Breeze' this will be shown at the new members' evening on 21st March, so if you have joined the Club this year or during 2008 come along and say hello.

Good Friday sees a good number of us gather at the Clubhouse to receive orders from the Hon. Property Sec, Paul Hand. Paul will have a long list of jobs for us to tackle and make the building and its surrounds clean and tidy for the season. Sadly we may not be carrying out the annual Grindle Dig as the promised hard improvement works will probably have

commenced making our pilgrimage history. Never mind, I guess the time saved can be spent reminiscing at the bar!

Lastly, the Club would like to express its sympathy for Jackie Fookes, whose husband, Julian, died last month after a long illness. Julian never quite got round to joining the Club, but would sometimes come to Jackie and Jo's suppers and was always congenial company. Jackie and family are in our thoughts.

**Jon Humby
Commodore**

May Day! May Day! May Day!

No, not a distress alert but a clarion call to come and enjoy yourselves at PMSC's new and soon to be famous **Spring Party**, when members and friends will be able to have a laugh, forget the credit crunch, eat drink and be merry, and dance the night away!

Don't delay, put **Saturday 2 May 2009** in your diary now, tell your friends to do likewise, then get cracking on your model boat design – rumour has it that Commodore Jon Humby will be awarding points, and we all know that points mean prizes! If you don't manage to finish your boat before the day – or just want some help – come early to the Clubhouse where materials will be available to help you build your craft.

That's only the start – having worked up an appetite cheering on your paper creation you can toast your success with a pint of whatever you fancy at the Club bar and tuck into a BBQ – you can be sure that in true PMSC style the food will be both delicious and very good value.

And thence to the musical fun: between 7:00pm and 8:30 we shall be running our first ever 'Kids Karaoke' – time for the youngsters to get behind a mic and strut their stuff.

As if that were not enough we then go full-on from 9:00 till late dancing (or drinking!) to Pin Mills very own band of 'mature (but still moving) guitar heroes' The Blooze Brothers – now with expanded line-up!

Following the success of last years musical events when your generosity enabled us to raise a significant charitable donation, we have decided that we shall be seeking to part you from some of your cash and have again chosen a cause with a local resonance namely the Elsie Norman Fund for Acorn House, Addenbrookes. Elsie is a Pin Mill girl who was diagnosed with Leukaemia last spring when she was just 2 years old. Acorn House, which is one of the Sick Children's Trust homes, provided accommodation to enable Elsie's Mum & Dad, Charlotte & Max, plus baby sister Innes, to stay close to Elsie while she was in Addenbrookes.

So, got that diary out yet? – here's a summary – please keep an eye on the Club notice boards and/or www.pmsc.org.uk for more details.

- 4:30pm - Paper/cardboard boat race for children of all ages – meet at the Clubhouse
- 6:00pm - BBQ at the Clubhouse
- 7:00pm - Kids Karaoke
- 9:00pm - Dancing to The Blooze Brothers

Finally the subject being May Day, where would we be without a topical quotation, so (with apologies to Karl Marx) how about "Arise ye starvelings from your slumbers, you have nothing to lose but your blues..."

Rick Kirkup
Rear Commodore

Property Report, March 2009

Good Friday Working Party - All members and families are welcome, any spare time that you may have on the day will be appreciated. The date is 10th April, H.W. 13.21, 3.98 metres.

Clubhouse - I have always been impressed with our situation at Pin Mill, we have a location to be proud of, even with the surplus of mud! Keeping our Clubhouse up to standard is the responsibility of all members, our committee and me the property secretary. If you have any issues about the condition of any area, please get in touch.

We have recently replaced one of the storage heaters in the bar area, despite sterling efforts the old heater just would not work, but I think it has given us many years of good service. May I give thanks to John Webb, Colin Fox, Rick, and Gus for their help. Another area that we have been concerned about is the Deck Roof-the present `canvas` has seen better days. Rick has put a lot of time and effort into researching the best solution for a replacement material, and in January the committee gave approval for a polycarbonate panel with necessary guttering and drain. This will be much easier for us to keep clean and maintain.

To end with, on a far more serious note, I came across the following the other day while reading..... "The man who would be fully employed should procure a ship or a woman, for no two things produce more trouble." Plautus 254-184 B.C

Paul Hand
Hon. Property Secretary.

N.B There will be no Grindle dig this year due to work being carried out on the hard.

In The Library

Added to the library in the history section is a booklet on The Beagle under its final name of Watch Vessel No 7. The Beagle for much of its service life was employed on many voyages to survey uncharted areas of the world. The second voyage in 1828 to South America and the Galapagos was the one in which Charles Darwin took part and which he found evidence that affected his views and led to his formulation of the theory of evolution.

In 1845 the Beagle was decommissioned from the navy and moored in the River Roach at Paglesham as accommodation for Customs officers and their families to counter the smuggling that was rife on the East Coast at the time. It was in this service that she was renamed Watch Vessel No 7. In 1870 she was sold to two locals who salvaged what they could of her timbers, ballast and copper sheathing.

In 2002-2003 the author, Ann Boulter, was involved with others in a search to find if anything was left of the Beagle. This investigation found remains of parts of the wooden hull covered with mud and a quantity of broken crockery presumably thrown over the side. An Admiralty kedge anchor of a pattern used at the time of the Beagle was also found and brought ashore. Much of the work in finding the evidence of The Beagle was filmed for a BBC TV programme broadcast in 2003.

Tony Cowley
Librarian

Meet your Committee

Lee Foster

I have been living in Pin Mill Lane with my partner Elaine since 1992 and we have owned a 32" Jeanneau Symphonie "Harmony" for the same length of time.

My interest in sailing started with dinghies at Shotley Sailing Club in the 1970's and then on to Windsurfing in the 80's. I did a few seasons as crew in the Haven Series, and after a period of no sailing while working in the Middle East, I purchased "Harmony", which I cruise in local waters as well as Holland, Belgium and France with Elaine, and you will have read in previous Newsletters about how much she enjoys the wonders of the open sea... (when I sailed across the Bay of Biscay down to the Algarve in 2003, she stayed at home). I hold the RYA Yachtmaster certificate and used to teach Competent Crew and VHF courses in my Father's Sailing School.

To pay for the sailing habit, I work as a Network Consultant for BT, currently contracted to Barclays Bank.

Other interests include carpentry, off-road driving, Arboriculture and I am also one of the Parish Tree Wardens for Chelmondiston.

Eileen Madden

We didn't mean to buy a cottage in Chelmo but in 1979 we did and are still here!

Sailing began for me in Pin Mill in the Mirror dinghy that my husband, Francis, built from a kit. Our first 'proper' boat was a Seamaster 815, a sturdy and reliable craft that took us across the North Sea many times to our destination in Holland, which was usually the town quay in Goes. In fact, in 1982 Boyton Blazer was one of the first local boats to arrive for the original Mussel Festival hosted by the Goes Harbour Committee which, for many years became a regular summer event.

We have maintained a close friendship with many of the people who live on the quayside and Cornelius van der Vliet, the harbour master, often reminds us of the first time we took our children, Charlotte

and Nicholas, in 1990 when they were 6 and 4 and who, like so many others before them, set about the serious business of fishing for crabs.

In 2000 we decided we would like a little more protection from the elements and bought our present boat, Zaluanda, an LM 27 which we often leave in Goes for two or three seasons at a time. It is such a pleasure to be able to sit in our covered cockpit and not have our gin and tonics diluted by the famous Dutch thunderstorms! Francis has been Treasurer and Hon. Moorings Sec. of PMSC and I have been Hon. Social Sec. for the past two years

Terry Sporle

My name is Terry Sporle, I'm aged 60 and retired last year after spending 43 years at the East Anglian Daily Times. I've been a member of Pin Mill Sailing Club for four years. Since joining I've taken an active interest in the Club and last year got involved with helping with the BBQs. I then, with other members of the Club, took the Food and Hygiene course, which I'm glad to say everyone passed. I was delighted to be invited onto the committee and was only too pleased to accept. I was also invited onto the Bar Committee and when needed will be only too pleased to help out. I look forward to this coming year, which may well see some changes and new ideas, which I hope will be of benefit to the Club.

Pin Mill Barge Match July 18th

A reminder that the Club is chartering the Sailing Barge 'Victor' for the day of the match. There are 4 places still available at a cost of £95 per head, which includes breakfast and lunch. The pick-up point will be at the Old Customs House in

Ipswich, time to be advised. Places will be reserved on presentation of a cheque made payable to PMSC and sent to Val at the address on the front of the newsletter.

Sailing

The completed sailing programme for 2009 is included at the back of this newsletter. (Please note that the date for the trip to Chatham as published in the last newsletter has now been changed to August 8th).

The cruise to St Katharine's in London has been a popular event in the past and will start on June 27th. We usually manage to pack in some entertainment, sight-seeing and shopping whilst there. They usually give us a discount if we book as a group so let me know if you are thinking of going.

The cruise to Chatham Historic Dockyard on the Medway will begin on August 8th and for anyone who hasn't previously visited this award winning site you are in for a huge treat. For decades British Navy ships, including the Victory, were built and repaired there, with everything – chain, sails, ropes, canon – manufactured on site. Amongst the more modern exhibits are a lifeboat museum, a destroyer, and a submarine. You may also see some parts of the Cutty Sark which had, happily, been removed there for restoration just before the disastrous fire. Also it is rumoured that, through his professional contacts, our Commodore may be able to get us a deal on berths in Chatham Marina!

If you would like to talk to me about either of these cruises please feel free to get in touch.

The first Bank Holiday Cruise is on May 23rd, and with high water at 11.42 I have proposed the Deben and Backwaters as destinations. The following weekend of

the 29th sees a Family Weekend Cruise to Stone Point.

The racing season kicks off on May 16th with the first of the 4 (yes 4!) Clubs River Series, hosted by RHYC. (Shotley Sailing Club will be making up the fourth.) Details of future events will be in the May newsletter and in the soon-to-be-published Almanac. Look forward to seeing you on the water!

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

Gibraltar Point to North Foreland...

How often do we listen to these words with dread, wondering what the Inshore Waters forecast has in store for us?

On a recent 'land cruise' to Derbyshire I found I had a couple of days to spare and stopped off on the Lincolnshire coast on the way home. Wondering where to go I noticed that I was only three miles away from Gibraltar Point and decided to have a look.

The Point is managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve and comprises a system of sand dunes separated by salt-marsh, with many inconspicuous hides and view points.

It was *not* a good day to go bird-watching! Out on the dunes a southerly gale, straight off the mudflats of the Wash, whipped up the sand and froze the fingers. Northwards a party of twitchers huddled together for warmth, and to the south three generations of one family, heavily dressed, were angled into the wind building sand castles and trying to find where their dog had buried his ball.

In medieval times Gibraltar point was a port, but as the entrance from the Wash

gradually silted up it became accessible only to fishing boats, coasters and smugglers. Today the Wainfleet creek still runs up inside the Point and provides mud berths for a mixed fleet of small yachts. The old coastguard station, which no longer commands a view of the sea, has been incorporated into the modern visitor's centre, which has displays about the reserve, a shop, and a good cafe.

I strode out to windward along the beach for a mile or two, then back along a web of footpaths over the marshes. There must be miles of good walking and birding here to keep you occupied for a day. But perhaps not *this* day! As the forecast rain began to fill in I retired to my VW very impressed with the wild and beautiful Gibraltar Point.

Val Stone

Neville Thomas

I received a letter on 1st February from Nick Thomas informing me that Neville, his father who was a member of the PMSC from the mid sixties until giving up sailing in the nineties had sadly passed away.

In the mid sixties he bought one of the first GRP yachts to grace to the Pin Mill moorings – a 28ft Sea Rover "Tomina" then in 1981 Neville and his wife Connie left Pin Mill for the Mediterranean where they sailed a Colic Victor 34' "Tamino" for 12 years before returning to the Orwell in 1992.

Neville passed away peacefully at his home in Hadleigh after a long struggle with Alzheimer's.

Nick has said that he hopes to complete his own circumnavigation later this year by returning to Pin Mill in the autumn. You can read all about it on at www.tokomaru2.co.uk