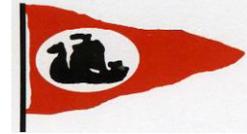


HOLLOWSHORE CRUISING CLUB



Newsletter from Commodore John Webb

August 2016

At the moment most of you are either away sailing or are getting ready for your summer cruise, and a number of boats have gone to France or Holland. We have not been anywhere ourselves yet due to health problems, but come late July/August hope to be away.



The club this year got off to a good start with a quiz night run by Steve. This was a full house and enjoyed by all, the usual prize being awarded to the winners. Unfortunately, the next event was a very wet day for the walk to Harty Ferry, and quite a few struggled round and back to dry out in the club and consume a warm lunch, served by Mark and Beryl.

Ian and Ann Campbell prepared a very nice fitting-out supper with Janet providing the cheese and biscuits; this was a well-attended meal by 56 members, most commenting how nice an evening it was. A raffle took place with a selection of donated prizes.

At the beginning of April, 35 members attended a talk given by Dick Holness about the East Coast Pilot book, a joint project between him, Colin Jarman and Garth Cooper. Dick explained that it all started in 2005 when he was working for the *Sailing Today* magazine, and he was press-ganged by Colin into doing pieces for the magazine about the Medway and Swale area. This then developed into the book that now covers the East Coast from Great Yarmouth down to Ramsgate, providing tiller pilotage information which includes rolling routes between buoys, photos from the air showing preferred tracks into marinas plus many pictures of different types of boats sailing around various parts of the coastline. The work involved for the last edition took up the whole summer of 2014 with approximately 800 nautical miles in the boat, 500 miles by road, 2,600 photos, then approximately six weeks at the computer to produce 40,000 words.

East Coast Pilot now has a Website that gives news of interest around the East Coast, updates about various changes to ports of call for the mariner, amendments to charts, and information about tides and weather.

It was an excellent evening finishing with a quiz of pictures showing places up the East Coast, Dick asking us 'where is this'? or 'what's wrong here'? I think I was the only one to spot boats entering a lock showing a red light!!!!

Our Open Day and boat jumble had 5-6 tables out in the sun, and most sold items and some did extremely well. Mark served up bacon rolls and a few people showed an interest in the club, with two filling in membership forms and parting with money. Meanwhile, a number of members were coming and going as the following day they were off to St. Katharine's Dock.

Thirteen boats left for St. Katharine's. It was a cold trip up with clear weather for the week and cold evenings, and many a heater was running. All the usual places were visited, with most enjoying the London Marathon passing across Tower Bridge. The only small incident was poor Bob who ended up in A & E after cutting his leg when he was trying to tie up in the lock. Many thanks to the staff who came to the rescue and called for assistance.

We have had to cancel one or two evening functions due to a lack of response, also the B.B.Qs have been put on hold, but if anyone wants to organize one they are welcome to put a notice on the board. I know Mark has volunteered to hold one where he will cook and provide the food.

The next big event was the Tester Memorial Lunch, this being delayed due to Chatham not being able to take us in April, and John Kerr once again got this in hand by getting dates changed. This time boats went to Gillingham Marina on Friday 20th May. On the Saturday, 20 of us went to the Medway Queen moored alongside Gillingham Pier, and it was very interesting to see the hard work that's been done and what's still to do. We had a mug of tea and watched a video of its life in the war years (I did not know it went to Dunkirk nine times to collect troops from the beaches). Afterwards it was into the visitors' shop where we were told more about its history. It was a good two hours spent and all said it was very interesting. From there it was next door to ASDA for some shopping and lunch and another cup of tea.



On the Sunday, Medway Yacht Club sent over to Gillingham Lock two trot boats to bring members over for the meal, which was attended by 33 members, some going by car. Once again MYC laid on a very good carvery meal plus puddings, there was a slight delay as they had the RYA push-the-boat out day plus races, so they were very busy. Those that sailed had a good return trip with one boat carrying on up the East Coast to Brightlingsea and beyond for a Seadog Rally.

On July 23th and 24th we are having a stall (arranged by a member of the club) at the Faversham Nautical Festival. If there is anybody willing to come and help on these two days, do drop into the club before the dates and personally volunteer by putting your name on a list against a time. This also goes for the bar as we are running out of names on the list which means it may have to close on Sundays during the summer, which would be a shame.

Finally, if you are going up the East Coast there are buoy changes, these were put in place last September up the Maplin stretch. NE Maplin has been name changed to Maplin Middle; West Hook Middle to East Maplin and the S Whitaker to Maplin Approach; all three have been moved into the Middle Deep channel. Full details of their positions in Middle Deep is on the club notice board courtesy of Dick.

If you have anything to add for the next newsletter, please Email samurah@btinternet.com .

Commodore John Webb.