



STOP PRESS!

QHT awarded £300,000 grant for extra moorings. See page 3.

Bob Eatwell



WELCOME to the winter edition of the Newsletter in which you will find the latest news from the Trust and all our Harbour users. Visitor numbers this year were up significantly, particularly from the Continent.

Moorings holder numbers are up, too. Our thanks go to Phil for his friendly and efficient approach as first point of contact in the Harbour and to our other volunteers who have so willingly given their time and expertise to our operations and you are invited to join the team.

There are exciting times ahead of us. We are looking forward to new developments in the Harbour next season and look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Bob Eatwell – Chairman QHT

Sir Robin Knox-Johnson - QHT Patron

Queenborough Harbour Trust is honoured to have Sir Robin Knox-Johnson as one of our Patrons. Sir Robin was the first single-handed sailor to circumnavigate the world non-stop in his 32-ft wooden boat *Suhaili*.



Knighted in 1995, he has received many honours for his achievements and lifetime interest in the advancement of sailing, sail training and youth development.

The Trust is most grateful to Sir Robin who has worked closely with us in our acquisition of the Harbour and in its future development.

Trot Boat Success

The Trust's investment in permanent staff and a free trot boat service is attracting more visitors.

The measure used by harbours and marinas to calculate their number of visitors is called boat visitor nights.

Our figures for 2013 were 1,623 visitor nights, an increase of nearly 30 per cent on those of 2012. Using an average of 3 crew per boat it is estimated that approximately 5,000 people took advantage of the trot boat service in order to come ashore.

Queenborough Rowing Club

QUEENBOROUGH ROWING CLUB'S SECRETARY CAROLINE reports on another successful year. Several members enjoyed a surprise invitation to go aboard *Gloriana*, the Queen's rowbarge, whilst on holiday on the Thames. At Queenborough Regatta our Town Mayor, Cllr Sue Simpson, presented the prizes and The Lilies Challenge event attracted a wide entry to the 10-mile course.



The Club had 2 craft entered for the Great River Race, London's River Marathon. There were 331 boats on the 21 mile course starting in Poplar and finishing at Ham Gardens, Richmond, negotiating 26 bridges on the way. Queenborough's boats are named after British Queens and, pictured, is *Queen Philippa*, coxed by Caz Wilson who followed *Sexburga*, coxed by Christine Reed over the finishing line in just under 3 hours.

Please contact the club at: queenrowclub@yahoo.com or on Facebook: Queenborough Rowing Club

Round the World Clipper Race

In September Sir Robin led a Clipper fleet of twelve, 70-foot, ocean going racing yachts from London to Queenborough Harbour.

The Trust organised their rendezvous for the night before their first leg of a round-the-world race. The Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club kindly supervised safety at a busy start-line off Southend.

Each boat has 24 amateur, trained crew under the command of a professional skipper. The 650 crew members come from all walks of life, are of different nationalities and ages and they have chosen to sail one or more of the legs. One crew member is Sheppey's Jim Hendry (pictured) on board *Great Britain*. When the Clippers return next July they will have raced 16 legs between 16 different cities in 10 countries and covered some 40,000 miles.



Catch up on the latest news of the race by going to: www.clipperroundtheworld.com



Clippers moored in Queenborough Harbour, September 2013

Image courtesy of J.Bell copyright 2013



East Coast Classic

Two of Queenborough's classic boats sailed to the East Coast Classic Cruise Event starting at Ipswich, Suffolk this summer. Over 50 boats gathered from as far away as Holland, France, the Medway and the East Coast rivers.

Whilst in Ipswich, the boats' tenders, known as smacks' boats, were sculled, sailed and rowed in races around the harbour. This annual gathering concluded with a cruise in stages to Suffolk Yacht Harbour and a dinner in the lightship.



Whilst Queenborough Yacht Club members were enjoying their sailing, once the weather had warmed up, the Committee was working on the club's premises, completely revamping the gents' facilities, including new showers. Laying up is mostly done, although some have continued to go out for a sail when weather permits.

The Club is open on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes during the winter and members are looking forward to February when the author Nick Ardley is to visit and give a talk.

For more information contact the Commodore, Dave Price, on 07836 245286.

www.facebook.com/pages/Queenborough-Yacht-Club

Moorings

All moorings have been inspected and this work is carried out on a 12-month cycle starting in December. It is the Trust's policy that all moorings are inspected annually. In doing so this year, the Trust is also upgrading some mooring tackle, particularly the deep riser chains and the buoys on the deep moorings.

The majority of moorings in the Harbour are all-tide, giving boat owners the best opportunities to make use of their vessels whenever they want to.



Motor Boat Focus

John – Motor boat *Chay*



"The onset of winter means that sea temperatures fall and we await the arrival of the cod. At the moment there are plenty of whiting about and one or two dabs but you would be very lucky to catch a cod, although you might land a codling or two."

Have You Heard...

...that the Harbour Trust provides a 12.5% discount on mooring fees for those who are boating members of Queenborough Yacht Club?

Painting and Scrubbing Berths

are available in the Creek for you to use as part of your boat maintenance plans. These can get very busy so you are advised to book in advance.

Please contact Phil to make a booking.

Even Keel Project



The aim of the Even Keel Project is to make sailing available to all. Pictured here are pupils from Elliott Park School with their Head Teacher, Richard Barson. The youngsters are about to enjoy a taste of sailing in Artemis 20 boats in the Harbour with their Even Keel instructors and volunteers.

www.theevenkeel.com

London Boat Show



You are warmly invited to visit us on our stand at the London Boat Show, to be held at Excel from 4 to 12 January. We will have for you a new Harbour film and will be introducing our plans for the development of the Harbour in 2014.

We look forward to seeing you at the Show.

Trot Boat

A number of the Harbour Committee of Friends have been trained and certified to operate the trot boat when Phil is off duty. Phil is qualified to provide this training and certification for operations in the Harbour. If you would like to volunteer to support the Harbour and be trained to use *Sheppey I*, please contact Phil.

SHEPPEY I's engine has been replaced making the boat quieter, more powerful and responsive which will make manoeuvring boats easier. Part of this work includes a new propeller to match the engine power. The service will start up again next season.



Harbour Development



QHT is to be given a significant grant to initiate development in the Harbour in order to increase revenues.

We shall be installing pontoon moorings which will be at an affordable price.

We are grateful to the Community Right to Challenge Fund for their grant to support our community here in Queenborough.

A Town View



A regular visitor to Crundall's Wharf is John Mahoney who enjoys observing the wildlife and the changing seasons. Over the years beachcombing has been John's great interest and he carries with him one of his finds, a 200 year old oak pulley from a warship, as a talking point.

On the foreshore John has found fossils, musket and cannon balls, along with military buttons and buckles, which he has kindly donated to Queenborough's Guildhall Museum.

Fishing Focus

Pictured here is Roy of Two Suns Quality Fish in West Street. Roy's stock is entirely sourced locally from Kentish fishermen and he collects the fish from the port where the catch is landed.

Roy is proud to say that over 90 per cent of his stock is local fresh fish and all his whelks, cockles and lobsters have been landed in Queenborough.

Recently, Roy was awarded First Place in the Business category of the Queenborough in Bloom competition, with a delightful entry reminiscent of a Cornish fishing village.



Medway and Swale Boating Association



Stuart Bradley, is one of our Trust Directors, and is Chairman of the Medway and Swale Boating Association which is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association. MSBA's object is to promote and protect boating on the tidal Medway and Swale, the term boating encompassing all forms of water activity. All types of boating clubs, marinas and associated marine activities, some 45 organisations in all, are MSBA members.

The MSBA represents their interests at meetings with official bodies to raise issues concerning, for example, security, navigation, dredging and river access. Swale and Medway Councils, Peel Ports (Medway), Police, government bodies such as the Environment Agency and the RYA are invited to attend. Next season, in conjunction with Peel Ports, we are planning to publish a Swale and Medway leisure guide which will be distributed nationally and to the near Continent.

RNLI

"Keep warm when you go afloat during wintry weather," advises Coxswain Robin Castle and the crews of our lifeboats *George and Ivy Swanson* and *Eleanor*.



"Before you leave let people ashore know you are going out, your destination and how long you plan to be afloat. Beware slipping on wet, icy decks by putting on appropriate footwear and warm, waterproof clothing which should help keep out the cold. Do check over your engine, batteries and VHF and, please, as always, wear your lifejacket at all times when you are on board."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Queenborough Harbour Trust CIC is a not-for-profit limited by guarantee social enterprise company for the benefit of the community

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