



Bob Eatwell

"Welcome to the latest edition of the QHT Newsletter. Much has changed (for the better) since we took our first hesitant steps 3 years ago. As you probably already know, the Trust was awarded a £300,000 grant to invest in pontoon moorings in the harbour. This improvement will take the form of a 60-metre large concrete pontoon to be anchored just north of the all tide landing.



As originally planned, our current temporary harbour lookout and store container will be sited on the pontoon, as its permanent location, together with moorings, both permanent and for visitors and to provide a walk-ashore facility via the ATL.

I am sure you will agree that 2014 is proving to be a very exciting year for the Trust and for Queenborough."

Bob Eatwell, Chairman QHT

Phil



Since the all-tide landing re-opened in May the harbour has seen a dramatic increase in visitor numbers and on one weekend we were almost full to capacity. Local visitors have come from Medway and Swale clubs and the East Coast. As we approach the summer holidays more boats are arriving from Holland and, recently, we welcomed 11 craft from a Belgian club.

Over 50% of our moorings are permanently occupied and this is expected to rise. My new colleague, Max, enables the harbour to have an on-site presence 7 days a week, increasing security and boat availability.

Contact us on VHF 08 call sign 'Sheppey 1'. Alternatively the Office number is 01795 662051 or Harbour Trust mobile 07456459754

Introducing Max

Joining Phil as a member of the Harbour Trust team is Max Cornell, pictured.

Max has a degree in Outdoor Adventure Management and is a qualified dinghy instructor as well as for kayak, canoe, jet ski and climbing.



In addition to spending 10 months in Australia as a lifeguard and swimming teacher, Max is an experienced scuba diver and white-water rafter.

We are sure you will join us in welcoming Max to the Trust and to the wider Queenborough community.

Harbour Developments

ALL-TIDE LANDING

At Queenborough Yacht Club's last AGM the members unanimously voted to transfer the vested ownership of the all-tide landing to QHT following essential maintenance that the Club and the All-Tide Landing Board had initiated.

As part of the agreement the Yacht Club will have a pontoon connected to the all-tide landing hammer-head which will be for the exclusive use of the Club. The ATL will provide direct walk-on access to the new pontoon which is being installed this summer. Our picture shows Bob Eatwell, QHT Chairman and Dave Price, Commodore of Queenborough Yacht Club signing the bill of sale.



PONTOON

Queenborough Harbour Trust's new pontoon is a 60-metre concrete structure made up of three 20-metre concrete sections. Formerly it was the base for the Gosport Ferry Terminal and modification work to provide a clear deck and all-round sheet fender has been completed. The four anchors to secure the 800 tonne pontoon are being laid ready for its delivery from Portsmouth, and all work to make it fully operational is expected to be completed by the end of July.

As always planned, the harbour lookout will be moved onto the pontoon and include a Reception office where visitors will be received and shown to their berth.

TEMPORARY HARBOUR LOOKOUT – Appeal Decision

Queenborough Harbour Trust is pleased to report that the Planning Inspectorate has judged in favour of the Trust regarding the container and lookout sited on Crundall's Wharf. In his Appeal Decision, the Inspector concludes that the lookout facility may remain for a further 3 years from the date of his permission.

The Trust never intended the present location to be anything other than temporary. The facility is shortly moving to a permanent location on the new pontoon so that we are as close as possible to our customers.

You may like to read the Appeal Decision which can be found at:

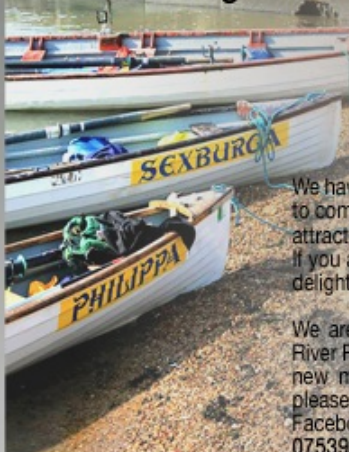
<http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/ViewCase.asp?caseid=2204432&coid=40960>

Click on 'Decision' under the table.

The appeal reference number is APP/V2255/C/13/2204432

Alternatively, visit the QHT website for a direct link to the document.

Queenborough Rowing Club

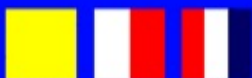


QUEENBOROUGH ROWING CLUB took advantage of the mild winter and continued regular rows on the Swale and the Medway with an increased number of rowers taking part. Voyages have included excursions to Burntwood Island, Elmley and a circumnavigation of Deadman's Island.

We have earmarked 2014 as "The Year of the Boat" as we seek to commission a specially built light but strong boat suitable to attract younger and less robust crews to the benefits of rowing. If you able to help us to achieve this goal we would be delighted to hear from you.

We are entering all three of our boats into this year's Great River Race – the highest number yet. We are keen to welcome new members and if you would like to arrange a trial row please contact us at queenrowclub@yahoo.com, Facebook: Queenborough Rowing Club or phone 07539533376.

Photo courtesy of Matt Brown of Sheppey Souvenirs (c) 2014



Queenborough Guildhall Museum



When visiting the harbour why not include a visit to the Museum situated at the Guildhall in the High Street? There you will learn about the fascinating history of Queenborough through the ages from a small Saxon settlement to a wealthy Borough and Royal Castle built by Edward III. Find information on the castle, the Dutch invasion, the World War II minesweeping base, notorious Mayors, gruesome murders and much more.

Opening hours are Saturday afternoons 2 pm to 5 pm from April to the end of October. There is a small charge of 50p per adult with children free.

For individual or group visits outside hours either phone 01795 667295 or e-mail vinelinda@hotmail.com and a booking can be made. Tourist information is also held in the Museum and small souvenir items can be purchased.

www.queenboroughguildhallmuseum.btck.co.uk

Motorboat Focus

JOHN - Motorboat Chay



"The arrival of May waters gave me the opportunity to do my annual maintenance as the murky waters have an adverse effect on fishing. I had Chay lifted out for cleaning, painting and varnishing. I checked over the fishing tackle and replaced some of the rigs. I'm back in the water now and looking for bass, dogfish and perhaps some skate or plaice."



"At a well-attended meeting of the Medway and Swale Boating Association a report was given from the Chair concerning the new developments. In particular the meeting was told that the new pontoon would be delivered in July and that the free trot boat service would be maintained. It was clear from the 40 organisations present that there was general enthusiasm for the developments and pleasure that, at last, matters seemed to be moving forward."

Many of those present had made supporting statements to the MSBA, which had been forwarded to the RYA for transmission to the Marine Management Organisation. There was interest in the walk-on walk-off facility from the new pontoon. Those present were keen that space should be given to visiting craft on the new pontoon."

<http://msba.org.uk>

Stuart Bradley
MSBA Chairman

Have You Heard...

Sheppey 1 continues to provide good service with her new engine and a re-pitched propeller which has provided increased power. We are looking for a back-up harbour launch to ease the workload on Sheppey 1.

The Trustees are offering a 12.5% reduction on the annual and seasonal mooring fees to fully paid-up boating members of Queenborough Yacht Club for a five year agreement.

Use of the scrubbing and painting berths are free to mooring holders and £12 per day for non-mooring holders. These are popular facilities so please call the Harbour Office in order to make a booking.

We have spaces available in the dinghy park at £20 per annum to mooring holders and £150 to non-mooring holders. Please contact the Office if you would like a space.

Website Updated

Have you seen our new, updated website which has useful local links?

You will find us at <http://www.queenborough-harbour.co.uk>

Our grateful thanks go to Laurie Holden who, for the last 3 years, has provided us with a webmaster service.

Peel Ports

There have been changes at Peel Ports Sheerness with a number of departments closing or moving to Head Office in Liverpool. However, Medway VTS remains, maintaining a physical lookout supported by AIS, CCTV, Radar and VHF. You can contact them on Channels 16 and 74.

See more at <http://www.medwaynavigation.co.uk>

Volunteers Sought

We welcome volunteer help with running the harbour. If you like to be on the water Phil Shaw gives boat handling training. The Trust sponsors volunteers leading to RYA Powerboat Level 2 and the correct use of VHF communication through the RYA VHF radio course.

Please contact the Harbour Office, details on page 3.

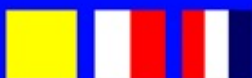
Kingsferry Boat Club



Not far from Queenborough is another group of frequent harbour users. You will have noticed them whilst circling under the old bridge waiting for the bell which signals the start of a lift.

Located close to the bridge is the Kingsferry Boat Club, established in 1970, on land left vacant by the demolition of the previous bridge. Secretary John Dewey tells us the club has recently purchased the freehold of the land and members are confidently making plans for improvements to their facilities.

<http://www.kingsferryboatclub.co.uk/>



Fishermen's Mission



Roy Ferris of 2 Suns Quality Fish (pictured) is the local representative of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Fishing is a hazardous way to earn a living and each year, Roy tells us, on average, 25 vessels are lost with over 70 fishermen seriously injured or killed.

The Fishermen's Mission charity provides emergency and welfare support to fishermen and their families every day of the year and at all times of the day or night. In addition, the

Mission works hard to offer practical, financial and pastoral help to active and retired fishermen and their families.

Roy helps to organise the annual service of The Blessing of the Waters in Queenborough, an occasion when fishermen everywhere are remembered and their work celebrated.

Roy can be contacted at 2 Suns Quality Fish, West Street, Queenborough or phone 01795 660970 or via their website.



A Town View



Photographed on Crundall's Wharf is Alan Hooper who visits the harbour regularly, cycling here from Minster. He enjoys the views from the sea wall and the exercise helps to keep him fit and in touch with his friends in Queenborough.

Alan knows the town from both sea and shore. The cycle ride gives him the opportunity of remembering the town's history and the countless number of people, particularly seafarers who have passed through over the years, connecting Queenborough and Sheppey with the rest of the world.

Southampton Boat Show



Queenborough Harbour Trust will be at the Southampton Boat Show on The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA) stand.

The Show runs from 12th - 21st September 2014 and we look forward to seeing you there.

Blessing of the Waters

Our picture shows Rev Peter Shaw of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen conducting the annual service of the Blessing of the Waters at Crundall's Wharf recently.

On a glorious afternoon many of Queenborough's fishing community gathered at anchor, along with members of the Rowing and Yacht Clubs, the Pilots, motor boats, dinghies and the large congregation ashore.



Trot Boat Times

Phil and Max are manning the trot boat from 10:00 till 21:30 7 days a week.

Contact them on VHF 08 call sign 'Sheppey I' or on the Harbour mobile 07456459754

Lifeboats

"Do spare a thought for your engine whilst you are afloat this summer", advises Coxswain Robin Castle and the crews of our lifeboats George and Ivy Swanson and Eleanor.

"Check over your batteries, the fuel, oil and water levels and change the fuel filters. Have a look at the wiring connections to the engine and check for water leaks. If possible, lift the engine cover and run your eye over the engine whilst it is running. If in doubt, seek professional help.

Your Sea Safety Officer continues to be John Barry who can be contacted on 07852176247 or office@whitsea.co.uk. We hope the weather stays fine for you and please remember to wear your lifejacket at all times when going afloat."

Queenborough Yacht Club

ALLAN MILTON - Vice Commodore QYC

"For a small club we are surviving well in the economic climate and we welcome new members. Please contact us if you would like to join.

In the past year we have continued our programme of updating the club, including the gents' facilities. New windows have been fitted, electrical and fire work carried out and we are nicely set for the future.

We open Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime until October. We have a restaurant open for meals on Friday and Saturday evenings at reasonable prices.

So, come along and see us at Queenborough Yacht Club. We can be contacted on 01795 663955."



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

Patrons: Sir Robin Knox-Johnston James Wharram
Chairman: Robert Eatwell
Directors: Stuart Bradley Marco Devereux Patrick Moore Geoffrey Reed
Auditor (Harbour): Bernie Hetherington
Auditors (Accts): Stanmore Mallion Ltd
Web: www.queenborough-harbour.co.uk
Email: info@queenborough-harbour.co.uk
Telephone: 01795 662051
Address: Queenborough Harbour Town Quay South Street Queenborough Kent ME11 5AF

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