

Bob Eatwell

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter.



Since last summer we have achieved the establishment of our new pontoon and walk-ashore facility, and work is currently in hand to upgrade the all-tide landing and provide permanent power and water to the pontoon.

As you will see in the Newsletter, our harbour users have been as actively engaged as ever. In particular we celebrate two of them, who, quite apart from their professional and leisure activities, have worked hard in raising funds for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen and Macmillan charities.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming months and to welcoming our new mooring holders and visitors to Queenborough.

Bob Eatwell
Chairman



Roy Ferris of Two Suns Quality Fish is our local representative for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen which provides emergency and welfare support to fishermen throughout the year. Roy helps organise the annual Blessing of the Waters service, which, last year, together with donations, raised several hundred pounds for the charity.

Roy tells us Queenborough's fishing fleet has been busy over the winter - oystering and looking for cod, herring and sprats - all locally caught and available in his shop.

Contact details for Roy and the Mission can be found on Facebook: Two Suns Quality Fish; their website, and their premises in West Street, Queenborough.



Visitor numbers

The harbour has continued to grow as a visitor attraction, with 1,692 visitor nights recorded in 2014. Visitor nights is a measure used by harbours and marinas to calculate their annual performance.

Our figures are up 46% since we took over operations in 2012. Over half of our visitors are from outside the UK.

Harbour Developments

- **The All-Tide Landing** is in the process of refurbishment with completion scheduled by early summer. The ATL will be kept in service while the work is taking place although the contractor will require short periods of closure while deck planking work is under way.

- **The Trust's major achievement** over the past year has been the purchase, delivery and installation of our new pontoon which is linked to the all-tide landing hammerhead. We have also installed seven half-tide, inexpensive moorings which are accessible 3 hours either side of high water.

- **Regular weekly visitors** to Queenborough are the training yachts of Elite Sailing. They are such regular visitors that occasionally three of their boats are with us at the same time, they have taken a walk-ashore pontoon mooring for their own use.

- **We will be holding an auction** of dinghies abandoned in the dinghy park and on the moorings over the past three years. Please see our website and the local paper for information as to when and where the auction will take place.

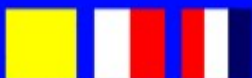
Queenborough Yacht Club



Upgraded facilities - including new showers and toilets for both ladies and gents, a dedicated Club section of the new harbour pontoon and a 12.5% discount from the Harbour Trust on moorings for QYC members - have resulted in increased membership, reports Commodore Dave Price.

QYC is looking forward to the summer and to repeating the successful Club Boat Jumble and Table Top Sale, and plans are in hand for the next Macmillan Open Day. This last all-day event began with breakfast, continued with fun activities, ended with music and a hog roast, and raised £2,000 for the charity.

We will be opening with the start of the season, on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime until October. Our restaurant provides meals on Friday and Saturday evenings at reasonable prices. Visitors and new members are always welcome and we can be contacted on 01795 663955 during opening times. Alternatively, contact Dave on 07836 245286. We look forward to seeing you.



Introducing Mark



Queenborough Harbour Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Evans to the post of Harbour Controller.

Assisted by Pauline Ayliffe in the Office, Mark is responsible for managing day-to-day harbour operations, associated administrative functions and ensuring the Trust's safety processes, procedures and other policies are effective and reviewed.

Mark is usually to be found in the office on the pontoon but you may find him operating the trot boat from time to time. The establishment of these two posts brings our complement to four members of staff.



Stuart Bradley is the Trust's representative on the Medway and Swale Boating Association which works on behalf of members to promote leisure boating and pick up matters of concern.

Stuart reports that MSBA and Peel Ports have together produced a Visitors' Chart for the area. The new Sun Pier should open around Easter and this can be used for tenders while going ashore and to moor alongside for short periods. Boats can be moored securely nearby. Currently, MSBA is working through the RYA regarding the Swale Marine Conservation Zone and your views are welcome either at sgbsailing@gmail.com or through a member of the harbour staff.

Motorboat Focus

John, motorboat *Chay*

"Dressed warmly, I took the opportunity of a still, clear, crisp and sunny winter's day to take *Chay* and some friends out fishing. The trip always starts with those essential safety checks – letting people know where we are going and roughly for how long, weather forecast, engine, and enough fuel. We check over the VHF radio, navigation aids and lifejackets to ensure they are all up-to-date and in working order, and take with us plenty of provisions.

After a frosty start, the air temperature rose to about 2 degrees C. A water temperature of about 6-7 degrees C makes it more likely that cod and dabs are about. We all have our own favourite fishing spots and mine did not disappoint. We used traditional rods and lines and came ashore with a respectable catch of codling and dabs.

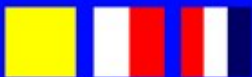
After a winter afloat and before the summer season starts I shall be lifting *Chay* ashore for a general review of the boat and fishing tackle and, no doubt, renewing my acquaintance with a pot of varnish and a brush."



Harbour Roundup



- There are spaces available in the dinghy park for both mooring holders and non-mooring holders. Please contact the office for further details.
- If you are a fully paid-up member of Queenborough Yacht Club you may like to take advantage of a 12.5% reduction on the annual and seasonal mooring fees, an agreement which will run for a further four years from the start of the 2015 season.
- Please contact the office in plenty of time if you wish to book either the scrubbing or painting berths, as these facilities are in great demand as summer approaches. If you pay for a Trust mooring you may use these berths for free but there is a charge if you are a non-mooring holder.
- Successful trials have been carried out to provide free Wi-Fi access for Swale mooring holders and visitors. The service is scheduled to be available for the new season but does not cover moorings in the Creek.
- The Trust's policy is to inspect all moorings annually, with buoys and risers cleaned, inspected and renewed as necessary, as are connections to the ground chains. This work is expected to be completed by the end of March.



Seafront Art



When you enter the harbour by sea there is a series of colourful murals on the sea wall created by mother and daughter artists Julie Bradshaw and Anna Piles from Bespoke Murals. The murals depict iconic Island landmarks as well as famous historical figures and events from its past. Images of local flora and fauna reflect the Island's important sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Pictured are the artists and their painting of the original window which you will find in the Guildhall. It commemorates the coronation of George V in 1911 and shows Queenborough Castle and Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III (1327-1377).

Julie tells us she is planning a further mural and very much enjoys working on the seafront in Queenborough with its friendly environment and attractive location. Julie and Anna can be contacted at artistjbradshaw@sky.com

Trot boats

The increasing number of mooring holders and visitors and the free trot boat service have led to the acquisition of another harbour boat, *Sheppey III*. This is currently undergoing modification and is expected to be in service shortly.

In addition, there will be a dinghy moored on the ATL hammerhead which will be available for mooring holders to use for short trips to their boats outside the scheduled trot boat operating times.

Trot Boat Times

Phil and Max are manning the trot boat from 10:00 till 21:30 seven days a week. Contact them on VHF 08 call sign 'Sheppey I' or on the Harbour mobile 0745 6459 754

Portacabin and Container

The Trust's intention was always for the portacabin at the Crundell's Wharf site to be a temporary measure. Its move to a permanent location on the new pontoon took place on Monday, 27 October 2014.

Later this year the facility will be painted and permanent power and water services installed.

Queenborough Guildhall Museum

Queenborough's Mayor, Sue Simpson, welcomes you to our historic town. Whilst waiting for the tide, you may enjoy a stroll ashore which will take you through the park and along the High Street to our Guildhall museum and ancient church. Opposite, through the alleyways, you will reach the Town Quay, where, in the past, Thames barges unloaded their cargoes and where our fishing fleet is based today, with the advantage to all boating people of the adjacent Swale, a deep water harbour to which craft have access at all states of the tide.



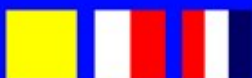
New Museum Artifact



A silver medal dated 1826 marked John Capel's election as an MP to Queenborough and was given to each of the 144 Freemen who voted for him. During October 2014 one of these medals, bearing the name of William Winch, appeared on an internet auction site. A small group of local people using social media pledged money to buy the medal and return it to the Island. The medal was formally presented to the Queenborough Guildhall Museum on the 29th December.

Museum opening hours:- April - October Saturday 2.00pm - 5.00pm, or by appointment.

www.queenboroughguildhallmuseum.btck.co.uk. The Museum holds many pictures of old Queenborough.



Sir Robin Knox-Johnson



Congratulations to our Patron, Sir Robin Knox-Johnson who finished third in his class in the 2014 Route du Rhum race. This single-handed race takes place every four years in November and the most recent event attracted more than 80 entries.

Sir Robin completed the 3,542-mile course from Saint Malo, Brittany to Guadeloupe in just over 20 days and finished third in his class.

Windy Wordsearch

E O S G D E G R S G O L Y E V	CALM
G L A T P Q I Q Q T I C Z N I	FRESH BREEZE
E L A X R A K L R G O E K A O	GALE
E I S G T O V Y H U E R L C L	GENTLE BREEZE
Q U I H E H N T I R C Y M I E	HURRICANE
L T G S R R B G B V A H D R N	LIGHT AIR
E I B N B R E E B Z L G H R T	LIGHT BREEZE
L Z I J E G T V Z R M H T U S	MODERATE BREEZE
G N E E X A R V E T E R A H T	NEAR GALE
E Y Z T R H G C F S D E B W O	SEVERE GALE
Q E G E N T L E B R E E Z E R	STORM
B X D Y B B N E A R G A L E M	STRONG BREEZE
N O E Z E E R B H S E R F N J	VIOLENT STORM
M L U N Z Y L K V Y A E I E D	
L X N B Z O A M K U G K C S X	

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Queenborough Rowing Club

The club entered three boats in September's Great River Race, London's River Marathon.

They were among over 330 worldwide entries and all three gigs completed the 22-mile course from Docklands to Ham, Surrey in under three hours. The Club's home waters are the Swale and Medway but members also row further afield and have completed summer circumnavigations of Canvey Island and Sheppey. In addition, the Club's annual Lilies Challenge Event attracted a wide entry to the 10-mile course set in the Swale. Do join us any Sunday morning at 10.00 in our boatyard at the seaward end of North Road, Queenborough.

Alternatively, please contact the Club at queenrowclub@yahoo.com, or Facebook: **Queenborough Rowing Club**, or the Secretary on 0791 2845 897

Communications

As well as reminding boaters of the importance of always keeping in touch, the RYA has introduced the RYA SafeTrx app. If you are afloat in areas where mobile phone reception is available, particularly in small craft, you may find the RYA's SafeTrx app useful to supplement your other communication equipment. As well as monitoring your boat journeys, this practical smartphone app can alert your emergency contacts should you fail to return on time.



The RYA aims to protect the boating you enjoy and can be contacted via their website at www.org.uk, by phone 023 8060 4100 or by post to RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, SO31 4YA

<http://www.rya.org.uk/joinrenew/benefitsnew/boating/Pages/RyASafeTrxApp.aspx>

Peel Ports

Head Office has moved to Liverpool but 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 www.medwaynavigation.co.uk



"Be prepared for anything, especially if you take your boat out on a wintry day," advises Coxswain Robin Castle and the crews of the Sheerness lifeboats.

"Both air and sea temperatures are very cold at this time of year and you need some good insulation to help keep you warm and dry. Before you go, have you checked the weather forecast, the engine, batteries and VHF and told someone ashore how long you plan to be out and where you are going? Lastly, as ever, please remember to wear your life-jacket at all times when you are afloat."

Boat Shows

The aim of the Trust's presence at the Southampton and London Boat Shows was to raise awareness amongst the wider boating community of our location and the increase in the number of all-tide moorings and walk-ashore facility.

Much interest was expressed, especially considering the direct access to The Thames, East Coast, Channel ports and European destinations.

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
Harbour Controller: Mark Evans Auditor (Harbour): Bernie Hetherington Auditors (Accts): Stanmore Mallion Ltd
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