

A warm welcome to you all

It has been a busy year. The Coastal Communities grant enabled QHT to commission and complete work to develop and improve the harbour and the Trust intends to build on these achievements in the future.

Others played their part, too. The Trust would like to thank and commend everyone who has given their support – the staff, harbour users, residents, visitors, clubs, businesses and organisations who contribute so much to the success of the harbour community.

The Trust wishes you all a pleasant summer both ashore and afloat.

Margaret Brett
Editor



Queenborough Harbour Trust



Summer 2020 Newsletter



Patron: **Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE RD**

"I have been delighted to see how the harbour has progressed to beyond a stopping-off place."



www.queenborough-harbour.co.uk

Coastal Communities Fund

The grant award and support given by SheppeyProud, the Coastal Community team, Swale Borough Council and many others has enabled the Harbour Trust to commission a number of improvements to the harbour.



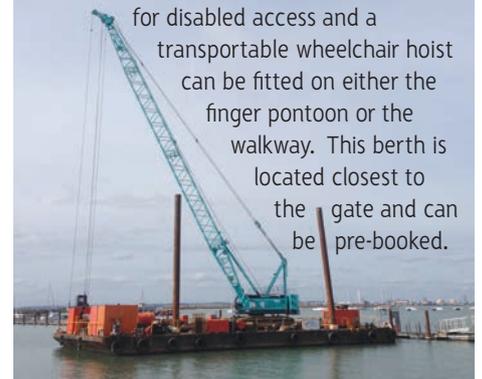
Queenborough Harbour Trust

Queenborough Harbour Trust is pleased to announce it has signed two leases which secure the harbour for many years to come. The first, with Swale Borough Council, extends for a hundred years. The second, with the Queenborough Fishery Trust, which owns much of the Swale seabed and foreshore, runs until 2065. This means QHT is able to take forward its plans to promote, protect and develop the harbour into the future.



The walkway and all-tide landing have been piled in order to strengthen and stabilise them and to give added protection during the winter weather. Sixty new swing moorings in two different locations were laid to accommodate increased demand and for the growing number of visitors.

Seven new finger pontoons have been added to the walkway providing 14 walk-ashore berths. One of these is specifically for disabled access and a transportable wheelchair hoist can be fitted on either the finger pontoon or the walkway. This berth is located closest to the gate and can be pre-booked.



Business Award for Impact in the Community

Pictured is Queenborough's Harbour Manager, Emma Crompton, receiving the 2019 Swale Borough Council Business Award for Impact in the Community. Since 2012, when a team of volunteers recognised the potential of the harbour and took over its running, great progress has been made. Much investment has taken place in order to increase the number of moorings and visitors and thereby support the prosperity of the local economy.

The 2019 Classic Yacht and Motor Boat Festival

took place over a sunny September weekend and attracted many visitors to the occasion. Dressed overall, 17 craft from small sailing cruisers to tugs old and new and the Thames barge *Cambria* took part. Pictured is *Doris*, a Thames Bawley, built in 1909 by Cann, John and Herbert in Harwich. One of the largest bawleys with a length of 40 ft she weighs 24 tonnes and is built of oak frames with iroko deck. In her early days *Doris* was used for fishing and racing at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, with her original owner's skipper. Today *Doris* is registered in the UK's National Historic Ships Commission. The Trust is looking forward to the next Classic Festival which takes place in 2021.





Luggage Trolleys



Thanks are due to Councillors Cameron Beart, Simon Fowle and Peter Marchington who kindly donated two luggage trolleys to assist boat owners and visitors when changing crew or bringing supplies on board. In constant use they have made the ship-to-shore trek much easier to manage and are a popular addition to pontoon facilities.

Visitor Numbers

The total number of visiting boats during 2019 was 2,138. Most of these were UK craft at 1,749. Many sail over from the continent, with 240 from Holland, 58 from Belgium and 30 from Germany. Thirteen came from France and there was one visitor each from Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. 2019 has been a record year for the number of permanent mooring holders and visitors to the harbour.

Deep-Water Moorings

Queenborough harbour's deep-water moorings and accessibility at all states of the tide are just two of its advantages. Pictured is the Fisher 31 *Sam Steel* returning from holiday in France. Rather than a long, direct passage to their home port on the East Coast the crew chose to explore the route through the Swale and stay in Queenborough for a couple of days before setting off again for the Orwell.



We still have a stock of Peel Ports official tide tables for the Medway and Thames Estuary available from the harbour office at a cost of £2.50.



If you wish to take the Swale route to East Kent this will mean navigating via the vertical lift Kingsferry Bridge. Lifts are restricted, with priority given to commercial vessels. If you need a lift, call up on VHF Ch 10 when you are an hour or so away, then monitor Ch 10 for instructions.

The Trust's Harbour Guide, available from the pontoon office, is a comprehensive booklet featuring information such as marine services available, radio and navigation information and safety advice. For the visitor there is a history of the town and places to visit including the award-winning Guildhall museum.



Adopt a Plank

If you would like to commemorate someone, an event or a visit, why not adopt a plank on the walkway? A personalised silver plaque is available for £25 or £50 for a personalised gold plaque. Whether you are a mooring holder, visitor, friend, club, business or simply that you wish to see the harbour thrive, your support is welcome and all funds raised will be invested in the harbour.

TROT BOAT times may vary this summer. Please check with the harbour office.



Harbour Round-Up

The hard-standing scrubbing and painting berths located in the creek are always popular with boat owners. Mooring holders have free use of these facilities although there is a charge for other users.

The all-tide waiting berth is reserved for crew pick-up and un/loading, although there is a 20 minute time limit for doing this.

Mooring holders have a unique access number to the gate on the walkway and visitors may gain entry via the keypad. Gate tokens are available from the Yacht Club, Queenborough Stores, The Old House at Home, The Flying Dutchman, The Rose, The Admiral's Arm and on the pontoon.

Spaces are available in the West Street dinghy park for all harbour users. A rack is available for mooring holders who would prefer to park their dinghy on the hammerhead.

WIFI is free to harbour users but is not available in the creek.

Our free pontoon library works by exchange of books and we welcome donations.

For details please contact the harbour staff or manager@queenborough-harbour.co.uk



Angling

Pictured are anglers James, Dickie and Paul eager to cast off for a day out following the lockdown. Paul said "We make sure our boats are properly maintained and seaworthy before the season starts and before leaving. "We've looked at the weather forecast and run the safety checks of engine, fuel, VHF and contact details." An essential piece of gear they each take with them is a gauge which shows the size of catch they may keep or return to the water. Both boats returned on the evening's tide with good catches and their skippers are looking forward to the rest of the season. If you would like to know more about sea angling but don't have your own boat several firms operate commercial angling charters from Queenborough and details can be obtained from the harbour staff.



Lifeboats



RNLI

The Sheerness crew are looking forward to the delivery of their new Shannon class all-weather lifeboat later in the year, following the retirement of the present boat. Named *Judith Copping Joyce* she will carry the number 13-38 which signifies her length (13 m) and the 38th Shannon to be completed. With a crew of six, the Shannon boats have a capacity for 79 survivors, a 250 nautical mile range and a top speed of 25 knots. Propulsion is a waterjet system from twin 13 litre 650 hp engines. *Judith Copping Joyce* will join the inshore D-class boat D-799 *Buster* donated to the Sheerness station in 2016.

Coming alongside is *T S Royalist*, flagship of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets, with her complement of 24 cadets on board. *Royalist* and the 24m power training ship *John Jerwood* frequently call in from the UK and near-continent as part of their six-day training voyages. Youngsters from Sheppey Sea Cadets were there to welcome her and have often taken part in offshore sailing opportunities aboard the ships, which offer a life-changing experience.

Whether you are interested in sailing or powerboating, it's good to know the basics of seamanship and navigation before setting off. The harbour trust works in conjunction with two providers who have a base in Queenborough and details can be obtained from the harbour office.



Guildhall Museum



A short walk from the park is Queenborough's Guildhall built in 1793, a replacement for the original which stood in the middle of the street. The museum, located in the Guildhall, tells the story of this historic town from its origins as a small Saxon settlement to a wealthy borough and the site of the concentric castle built by Edward III is still visible today. With access to the Guildhall upstairs, this award-winning museum houses many artefacts and is particularly well-known for its exhibition of HMS *Wildfire III*, the Royal Naval Patrol Service base for hundreds of minesweepers during the Second World War. The annual commemoration of the base and all who served there takes place in early September. Contact queenboroughguildhallmuseum.btck.co.uk

Queenborough Rowing Club



Each year, among hundreds of craft, Queenborough Rowing Club enters the Great River Race, a 22-mile course along the Thames from London Docklands to Richmond, Surrey. Chris Dixon, the club's Rower of the Year was a member of the 2019 crew, entered under the name "Monty's Blast 75th", in acknowledgement of the 75th anniversary of the



sinking of the Liberty ship *Richard Montgomery*. Their shirts show one of the warning buoys surrounding the wreck of the ship which ran aground in 1944, broke her back and sank containing a large quantity of unexploded ordnance, much of which is still in place.

In addition to social rowing in home waters as part of their calendar the club visited Southend for the Pier Race and very nearly succeeded in defending the Winners' Trophy, a title held for the past 5 years. Established in 1995, QRC is the oldest coastal rowing club on the Thames Estuary and meets on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. All ages are welcome, as are new members. Contact points are Club secretary, Darren Clulow on 0798 119 2925 and the Club Captain on 07834 519178 or marco.devereux@live.com.

Merchant Navy Day



is intended to raise public awareness of the UK's ongoing dependence on seafarers. The red ensign is the UK Merchant Navy's official flag and funds raised by the ensigns flown are used to support seafarers and their families in times of need. Queenborough Town Council organises the commemoration and is hoping the celebration on 3 September in Queenborough Park will go ahead. Details can be found on their website.



Queenborough Yacht Club

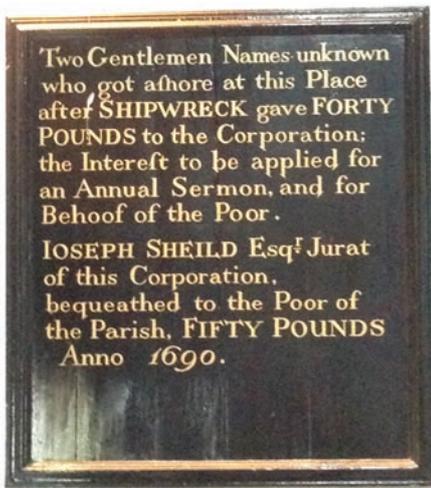
QUEENBOROUGH YACHT CLUB's Secretary John Irving reports that QYC has re-opened. Members and visiting sailors are meeting up again under the social distancing and contact guide-line rules and John asks everyone to make themselves aware of the new arrangements. Over the winter the committee has been busy re-furbishing the club bar and social area following an earlier upgrade of the facilities.

Members are asked to keep an eye on the club notice board for details of a forthcoming social event. An invitation is extended to members and non-members to join a summer cruise, details of which will be published on the notice board and at the harbour office. The club is open Friday to Sunday inclusive and new members are welcome. Further information can be found at honsec@queenboroughyachtclub.co.uk or at the clubhouse, 7 High Street, Queenborough.



HMS Wildfire III

There is a wartime mine and a memorial in Queenborough Park dedicated to those who served in the Royal Naval Patrol Service during the Second World War. The Queenborough and District Naval Ensign Association organises the annual service in the park when veterans gather to commemorate HMS Wildfire III's minesweeping role during the 1939-1945 war. Past and serving members of the Royal Navy continue to meet regularly and new members are welcome. QDNEA is hopeful the service will take place on Sunday, 13 September and extends its thanks to Dave Ingram of The Rose Inn for their kind sponsorship of the day. For further confirmation please contact janetflew@sky.com.



Blessing of the Waters

Queenborough's ancient Holy Trinity church, first recorded in 1366, has many links with the harbour and the sea. The charity board to the east of the vestry door tells of the help given to two shipwrecked fishermen. In 1690 they bequeathed money for the vicar to preach on behalf of Queenborough's poor and The Blessing of the Waters service, which takes place on Crundell's Wharf, is held annually in honour of this obligation.

Roy Ferris of Two Suns Quality Fish is Queenborough's representative of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen and both have long been associated with the service. The Mission provides emergency welfare and support to UK fishing communities throughout the year to over 13,000 men and women working in the country's toughest and most dangerous occupation. The Mission can be contacted at southcoast@fishermensmission.org.uk and Roy can be found at his premises in Rushenden Road, on Facebook and on his website.



East Anglian Sailing Trust

There is always a warm welcome for visitors from the East Anglian Sailing Trust based on the Orwell. Their cruising section provides sailing and on the water activities for the disabled, sail cruising the East Coast and Continent. Pictured are *Morven* and *Pied Beauty* part of a fleet of 8 yachts crewed by blind, partially and visually impaired guests, each with their own sighted escort. Queenborough is a favourite stop-over with its walkway and easy-to-access pontoon as the visually challenged can get ashore safely.



MEDWAY AND SWALE BOATING ASSOCIATION's objective is to promote and protect boating on the tidal Medway and Swale for all

waterborne sports and pastimes and is recognised by the Royal Yachting Association, the national authority. Over thirty clubs, other organisations and some 4,000 personal members belong to the MSBA, offering a wide diversity for leisure boating opportunities.

The Peel Ports River Leisure Users bi-monthly meetings with MSBA and marina managers have been reinstated. Peel Ports, in conjunction with other authorities, have established an action management plan in order to resolve various matters of concern in local waters. The UK Heritage Harbours Initiative, which started on the Medway, has spread far and wide and the Inland Waterways Association has sought our help to set up several Canal Heritage Ports.

Message from the Lifeboat Crew



The crew of the all-weather Trent class lifeboat *George* and *Ivy Swanson* and the D-class *Buster* send their best wishes to you for an enjoyable and safe season on the water. *"Always look at the weather forecast before you leave, the times of the tides and make sure your craft is seaworthy. Check over your VHF or other means of calling for help and please remember to wear your lifejacket or buoyancy aid at all times."*