



# Thames Sailing Barge Trust

## NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 46

July 2007



### PUDGE NEARS STAGE ONE COMPLETION

As you can see from the pictures, *Pudge* is looking ever better.

The activity around her has been frenetic: rebuilding and painting cabins, bringing aboard the new mattresses, re-assembling the galley and saloon, installing all the plumbing and electrics... and that's just a part of it!

The shipwrights have been hindered by wind, rain and rotten beams in their efforts to finish fitting covering boards



and rails, which are then primed and painted along with the deck. Most of the rigging has been put in place and her now *beautifully* smooth hull painted with black tar varnish and anti-fouling paint.

At the time of writing, the replacement of a rotten deck area is being finished and the dry dock moved ready for flooding. At which point everybody keeps their fingers crossed while she takes up the water... News on that process next month.



### PIN MILL MATCH

*Held on 7th July 2007.*

It was slow work getting locked out and so we missed the start time, but in light winds had an easy run out to the Medusa buoy. Also starting late and this time sailing in the Slow Stays'l class, *Victor* slowly overhauled us before the mark. Wind strength rather let us down at the vital moment and we lost them by the time we made the turn.

As ever on a slower barge, it was good seeing the other barges passing as they returned from the longer route. The wind got up and more squally later, with lots of tacking to fight up to Pin Mill and the finish line. *Ardwina* was unlucky enough to break a lee-board during the same squall which drenched *Centaur*.

*Continued on next page*

## TEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

**The riverbank at Teddington was wet and windy for the river festival.**

The organisers had done a good job in allocating and marking out the pitches for stall holders, each one just big enough for a 3x3m gazebo. David and Elizabeth Wood have one, which we were very glad to use. When the wind blew up and the gazebos started flying it quickly became apparent which stall holders had never been in scouts or guides. The Barge Trust members proved to have superior skills and plenty of string. We tried not to look smug, but I'm not sure if we pulled it off.

Elizabeth Wood and Ali Mercer had put together new display boards that are a big improvement on the rather tired and out of date ones that we have been using for so many years: we looked almost professional in our dry and motionless gazebo. We had quite a lot of interest from potential members and signed up 4 on the day, 3 of whom paid.

I took along a collection of sailing barge books for sale that were donated to the Trust by Gordon Bagshaw who lives in Canada. Although it wasn't book-browsing weather, it was worth it. Jane Kennedy did a good trade in cards and knitted toys: look out for her sharks, they've got teeth...

*Vince Webb*

### EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF POWER 18 Aug - 2 Sept

Thames Sailing Barges - includes models, local historical photos & stories.

Museum of Power,  
Steam Pumping Station,  
Hatfield Road, Langford, Maldon,  
CM9 6QA  
Open Wed - Sun 10am - 5pm  
Adults £3.50, children £2  
[www.museumofpower.org.uk](http://www.museumofpower.org.uk)

### Pin Mill cont'd.

Super weather for evening do at Pin Mill, a lovely place to sit over a pint and watch the tide go out! As the prize giving went on, *Centaur* passed downriver on her next trip, prompting jokes regarding her being 12 hours late...



*PMSC*

*Adieu* and *Mirosa* fought it out for the top spot, swapping the lead several times in some close racing. *Mirosa* took first place in Class A (Time: 4:50:48), with *Adieu's* skipper deservedly winning the seamanship award (4:53:45).

Other results:

Class B 1st: *Repertor* (5:12:28)  
2nd: *Phoenician* (5:52:18)  
3rd: *Lady Daphne* (5:53:00)  
Class C 1st: *Victor* (5:06:33)  
2nd: *Betula* (5:17:36)  
3rd: *Centaur* (5:48:28)



*With thanks to Tim Jarvis and the Pin Mill Sailing Club  
Further details and photos at [pmsc.org.uk](http://pmsc.org.uk)*

## OUT AND ABOUT...

While *Pudge* is out of action, *Centaur* has been working hard, seen *left* in warm sunshine at Woodbridge tide mill and *below* off the fuel depot on the Stour in a strong westerly.



*Ray Larsen*



## CENTAUR BOOKING UPDATE

Here is the status. You will see that the number of opportunities left to sail is reducing fast.

Following my plug for the Swale, it promptly went oversubscribed, so can I just point out the Colne Match has a number of slots that need filling? Don't leave it too late to book please!

We also have some spaces on the youth and family sails.

During August I will be out on the barge myself for a week, and will also be having two weeks holiday from August Bank onwards.

Where possible please contact me via Email and I will reply when I am back. For urgent situations only please, if you cannot get hold of me, or get a message back from my Email saying I'm not around then please contact Brian Dawson, but only if it concerns an imminent sailing...most queries should be OK to wait for my return.

If you have any queries whatsoever please contact me on 02392 469139 to discuss, (but no later than 9 pm please), or via [CREWING@BARGETRUST.ORG](mailto:CREWING@BARGETRUST.ORG).

*Andrew Berry*

Trip No.	MONTH	DATE	FROM/TO	TRIP DESCRIPTION	PLACES AVAILABLE
15	August	11/12	IPSWICH	Suffolk Rivers and Coast	1
17		19	IPSWICH	Family Day Sail	0
18	Bank Hol	24/25/26/27	IPSWICH	R.Alde & R.Deben 4 day	4
19	Sep	1/2	IPSWICH	Colne Match / Brightlingsea	10
20		8/9	IPSWICH	R.Orwell & R.Stour	0
21		15/16	PASSAGE	Ipswich to Maldon 2 day	5
22		22/23	MALDON	PUDGE- R.Blackwater etc.	5
24	October	6/7	MALDON	R.Blackwater & R.Colne	9
25		13/14	MALDON	R.Blackwater & Essex Coast	1
26	<b>August</b>	15/16	IPSWICH	Youth Sail	8
27	<b>August</b>	17	IPSWICH	Family Day Sail	7

## CENTAUR'S LOCATION IN IPSWICH WET-DOCK

As some of you know, for many years when in Ipswich, Centaur Lay on Albion Wharf outside Paul's Maltings. As part of the massive redevelopment of the Wet-Dock, Paul's was demolished and the dockside road shut whilst the re-building takes place and our berth in Ipswich was uncertain.

When the building is complete it is likely we shall return to Albion Wharf. Until that time Centaur can be found berthed on either Custom House Quay, along from her old berth near the floating restaurant, or at South West Quay, this is through the Haven Marina (past the car park we use), keeping the Wet-Dock on the left hand side until you reach the end of the Marina, just before the lock (pass down the left hand side of the large "Fairline" building). You can drive a car up there to unload your gear but the car must be returned to the normal car park in the marina as soon as the loading is complete.

Unfortunately we cannot say categorically which berth the barge will be on, as much depends on other vessels' use of Custom House Quay, so if she is not on one she will be at the other (unless she is out sailing and you are a bit early!).

*Paul Curtis, Sailing Manager*

## MAY WE PICK YOUR BRAINS...?

The future well-being of the Trust is of great importance. As such, your Committee will soon be holding a couple of 'Think Tank' sessions.

The key issues for discussion are: our Membership structure and terms; promotion of the Trust; crewing, recruitment and training; and finding the next generation of Trust Officials.

We would *really* appreciate your views on these subjects: what do you think of the current way of things? In what ways do you think we should develop the Trust? If you have *any* comments and ideas, please get in touch via this Newsletter or direct to Chairman Brian Dawson at the address on the back page.

Our aim is to have a set of proposals to give to you prior to the AGM, the date of which TBA.

## TRUST ARCHIVE ON THE MOVE.

Some of you may be aware of our ownership of a historical collection, which has been built up over the course of the Club/Trust's existence. Members David and Elizabeth Wood, major contributors to and carers of this archive, have been keen for it to find a new home in which it can be conserved, accessed and added to in the future.

After months of research, we are pleased to inform you that we have been able to deposit the majority of the 2D material with the Essex Records Office in Chelmsford. In accordance with our charitable status this is a long-term loan, with us retaining ownership, rights of use and copyright where applicable.

It will take their archivists some time to make the collection available for searching, so PLEASE, don't call them with enquiries for the time being: I will inform you of progress in the next Newsletter, alongside an article about the Collection's history, content and future plans.

## THE MAY FLOWER- A BARGING CHILDHOOD

From the enclosed 'Flyer' you will see details of a delightful book written

By Nick Ardley recounting childhood days on May Flower which his father and mother converted to a floating home, and which he and his brothers grew up on from the late 1940's. Throughout some 20 years the barge remained very much 'in commission' and was to be seen sailing the waters we know and love.

The point of all this is that if you are thinking to purchase a copy for now or a Christmas present perhaps, DO IT THROUGH ME. The book retails at £16.99 and for a modest £1.70 postage (making a total of £18.69). If I put in an order the Trust will benefit from a discount that the publishers are prepared to make. All you have to do is to send your order with a cheque payable to the Trust. I will make an initial cut-off date of 31st August 2007 and will send the bulk order in, you will get your copy direct from the publishers, and the Trust benefits from the discount. So *how about it?*

Thank you,  
Brian Dawson, 8, Birch Close  
Ely, Cambs. CB7 4TJ

## 'ONE HUNDRED' CLUB DRAW

Results of the draw made for July at the Committee Meeting:

1st: Ron Weyda  
2nd: M N G Cottar  
3rd: Ron Weyda  
(Yes, that's correct)

Congratulations to the winners and fingers crossed for the rest of you for next time...

## A FAIR WIND FOR LONDON???

On the 1st June 2007 the "Port of London Authority" (PLA) implemented rules for the mandatory use of "Automatic Identification System" (AIS) for all passenger-carrying vessels above the Victoria Deep Water Terminal (just up river of the Millennium/O2 dome).

AIS systems on ships transmit data to each other and shore control stations to describe their current positions and intended course. This is especially important when visibility is restricted, or at night for example. A vessel with AIS broadcasts this information regularly on a VHF channel, depending on the speed of the vessel. This data can include:- name/ identification/call sign of the vessel, navigation status (for example at anchor, under way), course, heading, position, speed and in the case of the PLA, the number of passengers on board: this data will appear on other vessels' and shore stations' monitors and radar that are within range.

Normally AIS is not required for a vessel under 300 Tonnes, but this is not the case with the PLA requirements. They require AIS for any passenger-carrying vessel. For vessels such as our barges, that do not regularly visit London, there was supposed to be loan equipment, but at present this is not available. The cost of fully fitting a barge with this system is well over £2000.00

So what does this mean for us? For our barges, which may only visit the Thames above the Dome once, or twice a year at the most, it simply is not worth the expense of installing this equipment. Hopefully loan equipment will become available in due course, but until that time unfortunately the only options for us at the moment are: don't visit London by barge, or all passengers to be put ashore, say at Greenhithe, then catch the train to London and meet the barge in St. Katharine's (as there are no passengers on board we wouldn't need AIS)!

*Paul Curtis, Sailing Manager*

p.s. At the time of writing, the lock gates at St Katherine's dock are under repair, not allowing access to the marina. Hopefully they should be repaired by August!

### SUBMISSIONS.

We are always in need of articles, pictures, poems, sketches etc. for the newsletter. Do you have something you'd like to share? If you have, you can send it via e-mail or post: see contacts below. I'm happy to type up handwritten or typed copy and scan photos or other pictures. If you'd like something returned, please supply a S.A.E. Please don't post anything valuable or precious!

### USEFUL CONTACTS...

Membership: Jane Dawson  
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