



Thames Sailing Barge Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 48

Oct/Nov. 2007



FROM YOUR TREASURER

Subscriptions for 2008

I know these are not quite due yet, but I am asking you to please consider helping the Trust by sending your renewal cheque to me just as soon as you can manage. As you will know only too well, the work on *Pudge* was unavoidably prolonged by a number of weeks and this had a 'knock on effect' on our sailing and charter capabilities, which sadly some of you experienced at first hand!! These factors present me with some short term cash flow issues which you could help resolve by making an early payment. I really would be grateful to hear from you!!

Rates are unchanged at:
£30 for Maritime Membership
£45 for Joint and £15 for Senior/Youth.



AGM 2007

Our AGM, held at the Little Ship Club in Maldon on 27th October, was well attended.

Kicking off with a presentation on the latest phase of *Pudge's* restoration, we then heard a report by Chairman and Treasurer Brian Dawson on the year's activities and current state of affairs.

The major talking point is the financial repercussions of the overrun of the work on *Pudge*: see box left for how you can help. All major work is now on hold until funds have been replenished.

Both *Pudge* and *Centaur* could be seen at the quayside, derigged and tucked up for winter. Please take note of the Winter Working dates and come to lend a hand if you can. Every extra pair of hands is welcomed. You'll also be able to see *Pudge's* lovely new shape at first hand...

There were the well-deserved thank you's to all who help administer, maintain, provision, fundraise, publicise, crew, etc. for the Trust and to our Members' for their continued understanding and support during a very challenging year.

Brian's report also highlighted



Winning photo in the 'Any Barge Related Subject' category. Ali Mercer

the challenges facing us as we move into our 60th year of operation: aside from the financial ones, we also need to safeguard our future by encouraging participation of young people and addressing Health and Safety issues to come in line with modern standards. We are already engaged in a series of 'think tank' sessions to look at how we can move the Trust forward. Any input is welcome.

The meeting was adjourned and we were able to enjoy a good lunch while chatting with friends, casting votes in the photo competition or perusing the books on sale.

As Brian's report ended: we have come through a difficult season, but are determined to move ahead and secure the Trust's future with 'a little help from our friends'.

BUY NOW IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS !

Just in time for Christmas, TSBT Sailing and Charters would like to announce that we are now offering gift vouchers! You can now buy a voucher which can be redeemed against the cost of a Trust Sail.



The cost of Trust weekend in 2008 will remain at 2007 rates: £75 for members, or £90 for non-members, so the vouchers will be available for either £75 or £90.

Now is the time to buy, treat the love of your life, or alternatively treat yourself to some peace and quiet and send your loved one away to sea for a bit.

The snappy red voucher is enclosed in a high quality 'Phil Chatfield' photo card, left blank for you to write the words of your choice.

To buy them or to redeem them please contact Andrew Berry (see 'useful contacts'). Redemption can take place once the 2008 sailing season is announced and is available for booking – as usual on a first come first served basis.

These vouchers cannot be redeemed against charter fees.

2008 CHARTER BROCHURE

This has now been finalised and is at the printers. As reported at the AGM, rates are being held at 2007 levels. Please contact David Gibson for information and bookings as soon as you wish.

It is with sadness that we must report the passing away recently of three Trust members:
Peter Love, Stan Yeates and John Woodman.

Peter & his wife Valerie joined the club in its earlier days when the *Arrow* was berthed in Greenwich. He was an active member for many years & became Commodore in the late 1970's - early 1980's.

By the time of going to press, the funeral of Stan will have taken place followed by, in accordance with his wishes, a party at Hoo Ness Yacht Club.

John Woodman of Rochester was in trade as a skipper with E J Goldsmiths of Grays and subsequently worked on tugs on the Thames and Medway. He also skippered for us (as The Club) for a number of years.

An appreciation of Stan and John will appear in a later issue.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of our founding next year, we are proposing a **Diamond Jubilee Lunch** in Greenwich, London. The provisional date for this is **Sat 8th March**, so pencil it in and we'll bring you details as soon as we can.

Before that, there will be a **Winter Muster** in London on **Friday 18th Jan**. Details to follow in next Newsletter.

We are also proposing a **sponsored walk** in Maldon on the **4th May**, coinciding with our annual Open Days. We'll let you know how to get involved with this much needed fund-raising nearer the time.

WINTER SUBMISSIONS.

Particularly out of season, we are 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!

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