



Have fun – go on a Cruise!

Editor

You will read later in the Mainsheet about the 'fun and games' that were had at the St Katharine's Yacht Haven. When you've read it I'm sure you will want to join the 'gang' and enjoy many other cruises this summer.

Cruises for May

2nd – 4th May to West Mersea – Fiona Battersby is leading this cruise.

20th – 25th May to Calais – John Walrond to lead this cruise.

Details of these cruises are in the Members Handbook, for more details contact Fiona or John directly.

Fiona – 02084 600219
John – 01622 710562

From the Front

Cliff Howell

Going to the Channel Islands this summer?

In case you've missed this in the press please be aware that the reciprocal health agreement with the Channel Islands finished on 31st March 2009. As a result the Dept. of Health is advising all who visit any of the Channel Islands to have adequate travel/health

insurance. If you need any treatment whatsoever whilst in the islands you will have to pay for it! The same applies when Mon. Bergerac or tax exiles coming to the UK.

Shipping Lanes – rule 10 and all that!

Apparently French law allows their patrol boats to detain any vessel, for between 12 and 24 hours, that contravenes, in particular Rule 10, and fine them up to £7500. A motor boat was recently escorted into Boulogne and detained for a breach of the rules for lane crossing. Remember sailing boats must not impede power driven vessels using the TSS Rules (for the novices – if you don't know what a TSS is, look it up!)

Editor – TSS is Traffic Separation Scheme – to save you looking it up! I have noted that Dover captured a skipper for the same offence – he was going the wrong way in the shipping lanes - and he was fined £6000 with more than £2000 costs!!

Yesteryear!

Cliff Howell

I was going through some old papers recently and found a brochure for some of the houses in Lower Upnor. The front cover shows USC boats laid up on the beach. I guess the photo was taken circa 1977 as the brochure was produced about 1978/79.

I did think I would take a new photo and do one of those 'Spot the Difference' things but it's too easy – i.e. no wooden shelter on the green now, the Arethusa canteen has gone, there were trees on St. Mary's Island and where are Owen's barges.

Do any of our longer standing members recognise any of the boats? If you do, let us know what you know. The only name I can see is 'Whisper' but there seem to be about ten or so boats on the beach. How times have changed!



Thank You

Following the sad death of Ian, Ann Winder and family would like to thank all those who have contributed to Médecins Sans Frontières in memory of Ian. Ann has now had a final confirmation from MSF that a total of £1030 has been received. If you are in the Clubhouse a copy of MSF's 'thank you' is on the notice board.

Photographic Competition

Sylvia Adshead

An entry form for the photographic competition can be found on the Club website. *(I am also enclosing a copy for those not having internet access – Editor)*

Below are details of the competition. Now let's see what fantastic photographs members can create this summer.

The Competition:

- Open to all USC members as defined within the Club Rule Book
- Photograph means any image i.e. photo, sketch, drawing, cartoon, and/or painting etc.
- Must be presented in Portrait format

Competition Criteria

Images submitted to be confined to:

- USC Members and/or activities
 - USC location, building and/or items related to
- Members submitting images to ensure they ARE NOT protected by copyright other than that of the owner/member/contestant who shall agree with the T & Cs providing the Club with permission to reproduce the image/s i.e. via a signed application form.
 - The entry form is available for download from the web
 - Judged by a panel of 3 x Committee Members
 - Judges or their family members not allowed to enter the competition
 - Images shall be judged on merit regards competition criteria above
 - The competition winner declared at Laying-Up Supper
 - 1st Prize – your image on Yearbook front page
 - .

Next Mainsheet

As usual, your contributions please to Sue Lucas – Editor at suejlucas@btinternet.com or 3 The Street, Huntingfield, Halesworth, IP19 0PU

Security Patrols

Ian Campbell

Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered for a Security Patrol. However, we still have **MANY** dates to fill. Please let me know which you are able to do.

Ian can be contacted on **01634 735489** or manywish@sky.com

A copy of this list is also on the Clubhouse Notice Board

Mon	11/05/09	Yamkat
Tues	12/05/09	Emily
Wed	13/05/09	
Thur	14/05/09	Muritai
Fri	15/05/09	Mignon D'harty
Sat	16/05/09	Merricrew
Sun	17/05/09	
Mon	01/06/09	
Tues	02/06/09	
Wed	03/06/09	
Thurs	04/06/09	Stream II
Fri	05/06/09	Snowgoose
Sat	06/06/09	Sweet Kate
Sun	07/06/09	Warlock
Mon	06/07/09	Mary Lou
Tues	07/07/09	
Wed	08/07/09	
Thurs	09/07/09	
Fri	10/07/09	Patanda
Sat	11/07/09	Elsanta
Sun	12/07/09	
Mon	10/08/09	Denebola
Tues	11/08/09	Lady 'N'
Wed	12/08/09	Avalon
Thurs	13/08/09	Moon Dancer of Upnor
Fri	14/08/09	Margaret Catchpole
Sat	15/08/09	Greytag of Upnor
Sun	16/08/09	Nimrod
Mon	31/08/09	Spring Intention
Tues	01/09/09	Oystercatcher
Wed	02/09/09	
Thurs	03/09/09	Vallamo
Fri	04/09/09	Sambur
Sat	05/09/09	Moondance
Sun	06/09/09	Eider
Mon	21/09/09	
Tue	22/09/09	Valsa
Wed	23/09/09	
Thurs	24/09/09	
Fri	25/09/09	Comet
Sat	26/09/09	Magna Carter
Sun	27/09/09	
Mon	28/09/09	Nirvana
Tues	29/09/09	
Wed	30/09/09	
Thurs	01/10/09	Lytson
Fri	02/10/09	Finndabar
Sat	03/10/09	Goodbye Mr Chips
Sun	04/10/09	

Easter Cruise to St Katharine's

Marilyn Campbell

The Fleet: Ma Pin Wa, Comet, Osprey, Bonny Girl, Galatea, Finndabar, Clifty Best, Skybird, Misty Rider, Patanda, Freewind, Amarula

What a great time we all had at St Katharine's! Twelve boats went up, three on Thursday, five on Friday, three on Saturday and one a week earlier! I am pleased to report that the locking-in procedure was well organised on all days and everyone was safely tied up by Saturday evening. The facilities in St Katharine's were also much improved!

Despite the weather doing its best to dampen our spirits we all made the most of being in the heart of London, with crews making forays to markets, monuments and museums. The crew from Bonny Girl was even detained by some Tamil Tigers but you will need to ask them for more details! There was a 'Smile' programme running at the Dock over the weekend, which provided flame throwing uni-cycling jugglers for our entertainment, amongst other treats.

Steve Maines had managed to find us an excellent restaurant for our Club meal on Saturday. Bodean's, a BBQ Smokehouse, opposite the Tower of London, is to be recommended for all meat eaters. There were 56 of us there, including 9 children, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, even the walk back to the boats in the rain, clutching doggy bags!

Due to alleged problems with the lock, most of us had to leave on Sunday. I think it was because the early tide on Monday would have meant someone getting up early to lock us out, but, as it turned out, the Sunday departure encouraged us to overnight at Erith Yacht Club. When I contacted Erith to ask if they had overnight moorings for nine boats they were delighted and offered to keep the bar open for us and even run a trot boat! After leaving St Katharine's at high tide we raced down the river and arrived at Erith about 1 1/2 hours later! Unfortunately the tide was still running at over 3 knots and picking up the mooring buoys was certainly a test of skills! It seems the lasso method worked best but even the Mooring Master had some difficulty! After spending a jovial evening in the Yacht Club with most hospitable Erith members we made our way to the trot boat for the return to our boats. The lack of light and exceptionally muddy causeway made the journey to the boat

tricky, to say the least, with a couple of us taking a tumble.

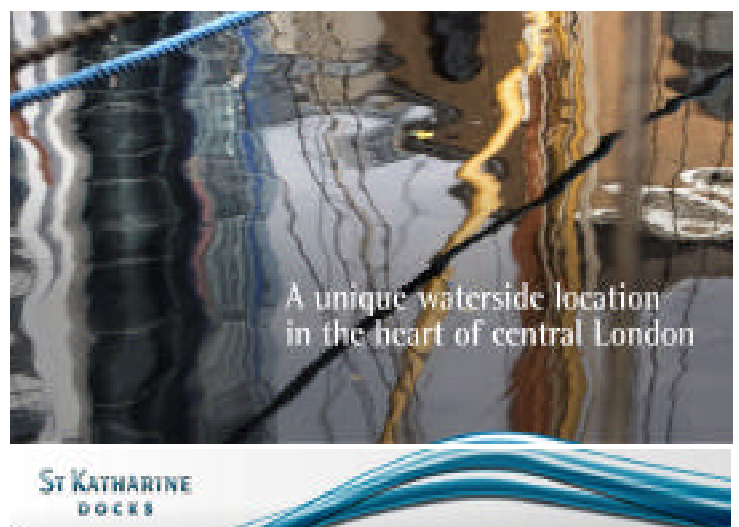
However, we were unprepared for what happened when we got into the boat! The boat was aground fortunately as it was not apparently tied onto anything. It then seems the pin sheared when the driver attempted to start the outboard so he decided to swap the engine with one on the dinghy tied alongside. We were actually floating by the time he discovered the gears on this engine were shot! We were obviously going nowhere, or at least nowhere under control! We were anxiously drifting along the River Thames when Ian Tredwen and John Sewell found oars, which they used to paddle us over to yet another Erith boat.

Fortunately this boat had an inboard engine, which started, and got us all safely back to our boats! A lesson indeed in not casting off until your engine is running!

We left Erith early on Monday morning and had an uneventful journey back to Upnor in what I can only describe as poor visibility. When we were all tied up and de-briefing outside The Ship the sun had the cheek to put in an appearance for the first time all weekend!

So many highlights of the Cruise! The two professional singers who set up their music next to our boats and sang to us for an hour before we left St Kat's was one. Especially their faces when realization hit them as they sang the song from Titanic! It was also lovely to have so many happy, confident children with us and well done to the Social Secretary posing as the Easter Bunny, delivering Easter Eggs to the boats overnight!

Many thanks to you all for coming along and making it such a successful Cruise. Hope to see you all in West Mersea.



Photos from the St Katharine's Cruise



Definitely the last funnies about the Credit Crunch

The credit crunch has helped me get back on my feet. The car's been repossessed.

How do you define optimism?
A banker who irons five shirts on a Sunday

What do you call five hedge fund managers at the bottom of the ocean?
A good start.

A young man asked an elderly rich man how he made his money. "Well, son, it was 1932, the depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last penny, so I invested that penny in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and, at the end of the day I sold that apple for ten pennies. The next morning I bought two apples, spent the day polishing them and sold them for 20 pennies. I continued this for a month, by which time I'd accumulated a fortune of £1.37. Then my wife's father died and left us £2m.

And VERY finally: What's the capital of Iceland?
About £3.50.

