



# MARINA MATES



## ISSUE NUMBER 33 OCTOBER 2006

### NEWS FROM THE MARINA OFFICE

The marina definitely has a buzz about it these days, with the restaurants, bars and coffee shops all now well established and very busy, together with the steady growth of new faces taking up berths. I was also delighted to hear from each of our new customers without prompting; '*how friendly and helpful fellow berth holders are*'. Thank you all - please keep it up!

I know Christmas is still some way off, but the next Marina Mates issue may be too late to mention about the Lantern Parade. Yes, it's the return of the lantern boat parade. For those who took part last year, many thanks and can we trust that we can rely on the same support from everyone this year. Shortly all berth holders will receive an invitation from the council to take part in this year's event - which promises to be even bigger. The council is also looking at attracting a continental Christmas market for 2 to 3 days around the event (dates yet to be determined). This will undoubtedly add to the fun. For those who could not attend or take part last year let me elaborate further.

Dress your boat, regardless of its size in as many Christmas lights and decorations as possible and take part in a parade of craft (which last year was lead by Santa on his sleigh around the marina), then berthing as a group. This then forms the back drop for the carol singers, pipers, stalls and market and much more. I will keep you advised nearer the time. However in the meantime be on the look out for 12volt lights and Christmas decorations I imagine Ebay will have some. **See Page 5 for further information.**

Irene Thompson has worked at the marina since 1992 and retired at the end of Sept. We would, therefore, like your help in giving Irene a great retirement send off. I am planning a celebration date and venue to be determined so please look out for notices soon.

Would anyone be interested in some organised winter racing and/or cruising. If so, please let me or the berth holders association know.

Good sailing and may all your winds be westerly.

**Allan Henderson**

## **BUOYS WILL BE BUOYS - OR WILL THEY?**

Wouldn't you think that it would be common sense for all buoyage to be standardised. So that wherever you sail you'd know whether to pass to port or starboard of a red or green buoy as you enter a harbour or navigate a river? The marine rule makers did try to come up with such a system, but failed. Their compromise has been to agree a system in which the same buoys have a totally contradictory meaning depending where in the world you are sailing.

In the 1970's the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities came up with an agreement about five types of buoy – **lateral, cardinal, isolated danger, safe water and special** – with specific rules for each type. Of the five types, the most common are those using the lateral system. Then the madness came when the lighthouse authorities were allowed the choice of using red to mean '**go to the left of me**' or '**go to the right of me**' on a regional basis. It's like a red traffic light meaning '**go**' in one part of the world and '**stop**' in another.

So it ended up that in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia a red or a green buoy tells the sailor to do one thing, and in the Americas and the Caribbean it tells them to do the opposite. The answer is to just sail on the North east coast where hopefully you know what you are doing – or do you?

## **WHAT COLOUR ARE YOUR WELLIES?**

There are some rules about wellies about what colour should be worn where, and all sailors would do well to observe these rules. People who work in the country wear black Wellington boots. Those who live there – or would like to – wear green wellies. Blue wellies are reserved for use at sea and in no circumstances should be worn more than a mile from the coast. Red wellies are worn only by children for jumping in puddles and Frenchmen. Yellow wellies have been worn at sea, but not for the last thirty years, except by the RNLI.

Despite the fact that a good quality rubber boot was adequate for generation after generation of sailors, the modern yottie is starting to turn his back on rubber in favour of the various breathable materials on the market. Mixtures of Gore Tex (blue) and leather (brown) are very popular, but expect to pay £200 or more to keep your feet dry. Now there'll be numerous people at Hartlepool marina, walking around looking at people's feet with a knowing look on their faces, so get the paint pot out and get into your appropriate colour!

## **MOODY (not the boat)**

I bought my wife one of these 'Mood' rings the other day so I might be able to monitor her moods a bit more easily. We've since discovered that when she's in a normal mood it turns yellow, and when she's in a good mood, it turns a lovely shade of green. But when she's in a bad mood, it leaves a big red mark on my forehead!

## GRACE DARLING 1838

The Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands just off the Northumbrian coast, contained four rooms below the lantern, where William Darling and his wife lived with their nine children. All of the family except for Grace and her brother William left home eventually to seek work elsewhere, but these two regularly looked after the light. In the early hours of 7<sup>th</sup> September 1838, William was ashore when Grace saw the paddle steamer **Forfarshire** grounded on the rocks. Of the sixty people on board only a dozen or so remained alive and managed to scramble onto the rocks.

During the night two children and two more adults died from exposure and their injuries. Then at daybreak, Grace and her father launched the small coble and rowed out to the wreck in horrendous seas. Grace and her father were very capable rowers but the violent seas and tide pushed the little boat off course several times making their journey to the **Forfarshire** twice as long. They eventually reached the stricken ship and took off five of the nine survivors, who were taken back to the lighthouse.

Grace stayed with those rescued while her father and two of the rescued seamen made a second trip to the wreck to fetch the remaining survivors. When the rescued were safely at the lighthouse, Grace and her mother tended their injuries and cooked them meals. It was three days before the survivors could be taken ashore.

On 11 September newspapers of the day printed the story of the loss of the **Forfarshire**. There was no mention of the Darlings' bravery, as the arguments over the cause of the wreck and the possibility that the Forfarshire's owners had wilfully sent a disabled ship to sea eclipsed the news of the rescue. When the scandal died down, a 'penny-a-liner' reporter grabbed the Grace Darling story for his gossip sheet and gave it his melodramatic best. The deed leaped from paper to paper, with each account becoming more thrilling and courageous.

The rescue, and Grace in particular, suddenly became something of a legend and her part in the drama became one of the most celebrated cases of female heroism of the Victorian era. Painters rushed to Longstone to capture Grace's dainty face and slight figure against a backdrop of angry seas and suffering humanity. Poets and minstrels wrote tributes to the 'Grace of womanhood and Darling of Mankind', and peddlers hawked locks of her hair and swatches of fabric from the dress she had worn on the rescue. Boat trips were organised to the Longstone lighthouse for people just to get a glimpse of her. A public conscription for the Darlings raised a gift of several hundred pounds, to which the Royal Humane Society added gold lifesaving medals and a silver tea set. Grace Darling had captured the public imagination.

**Which is the bravest bird in the world?**

**The 'Grey Starling' of course! (Think about it)**

## For the Ladies

### THE REAL STORY

After three weeks in the Garden of Eden, God came to visit Eve. 'So, how is everything going?' enquired God. 'It's all so beautiful, God,' she replied. 'The sunrises and sunsets are breathtaking, the smells, the sights, everything is wonderful. I have just one problem – it's these breasts you have given me. The middle one pushes the other two out and I am constantly knocking them with my arms, catching them on branches and snagging them on bushes. I do hate to complain but, they're a real pain.' Eve went on to tell God that since many other parts of her body come in pairs, such as her limbs, eyes, ears, etc she felt that having just two breasts might leave her body more balanced. 'That's a fair point,' replied God, 'but it was my first shot at this, you know. I gave the animals six breasts so I figured that you needed only half of those, but I see that you are right. I will fix it right away.' And God reached down removed the middle breast and tossed it into the bushes.

Three weeks passed and God once again visited Eve in the Garden of Eden. 'Well Eve, how is my favourite creation?' 'Just fantastic,' she replied, 'but for one oversight. You see, all the animals are paired off. The ewe has a ram and the cow has a bull. All the animals have a mate except me. Sometimes I feel so alone.' God thought for a moment and said, 'you know Eve you are right. How could I have overlooked this? You need a mate and I will create a man for you immediately from a part of you. Now let's see where did I put that useless tit?' **Now doesn't THAT make more sense than all that stuff about the rib?**

\* \* \* \* \*

A couple are lying in bed. The man says, 'I'm going to make you the happiest woman in the world.' The woman replies, 'I'll miss you'

\* \* \* \* \*

He said – 'Shall we try swapping positions tonight?' She said – 'That's a good idea... you stand by the ironing board while I sit on the sofa and fart.'

\* \* \* \* \*

What does it mean when a man is in your bed gasping for breath and calling your name? You didn't hold the pillow down long enough!

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Why do men whistle when they are on the toilet? It helps them remember which end they need to wipe.

\* \* \* \* \*

A blonde girl calls her boyfriend and says, 'Please come over and help me, I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started' Her boyfriend asks, 'What's it supposed to be when it's finished?' The blonde says, 'According to the picture on the box, it's a tiger.' Her boyfriend decides to go over and help her with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table. He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to his girlfriend and says. 'First of all, no matter what we do we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a tiger.' He takes her hand and says. 'Secondly, I want you to relax, let's have a nice cup of tea, and then.... he sighed 'Let's put all these Frosties back in the box.'

## ***LANTERN BOAT PARADE 2006***

### **Set sail for the lantern boat parade**

CHRISTMAS is getting a special maritime welcome in Hartlepool this year – with a dazzling lantern boat parade!

The magical event for the town takes place on **Saturday 9 December** in and around Jackson Dock and Navigation Point at Hartlepool Marina from 6pm-9pm and we would like to see as many of our berth-holders participating in this year's event and hopefully building upon last year's successful pilot event!

The fun starts at 6pm when a parade of marina boats, each aglow with festive lights, sails around the Jackson Dock led by Santa and his elves on a special sleigh boat. At the same time, many of the Navigation Point restaurants and bars will switch on their Christmas lights, adding to the blaze of colour.

To add to the festivities, Navigation Point will be abuzz with entertainment including songs by Hartlepool Community Choir, performances by a variety of street theatre performers including 'Feeding the Fish' – a vibrant double act that fuses highly technical juggling with dance and cutting edge technology, electronically illuminated props are manipulated to create beautiful patterns of light in the air. In addition there will be tunes from Highland bagpiper Derek Millmoor and festive music to sing along to. Many of the Navigation Point restaurants and bars will be setting up outside tables to sell mulled wine, mince pies and other tasty festive food and drink.

The fun concludes at 9pm with a five-minute firework display over the marina.

The event is being organised by Hartlepool Borough Council and Hartlepool Marina. Further information can be obtained by contacting Lesley Strickland, HBC Events Officer tel. **01429 523420** or Allan Henderson, Director of Hartlepool Marina tel. **01429 865744**.

## **MARINA CALLING**

Heard on the marina radio channel, 'Marina, what time is it?' The marina replies, 'Who is this?' The answer comes back, 'It doesn't make any difference who this is, what time is it?' 'Well ' says the marina, 'If you're a motor boat it's two in the afternoon, if you're a pilot boat etc it's fourteen hundred hours, and if you're a fishing boat, Mickey's big hand is on twelve and his little hand is on the two, and if you're a yacht it's still Tuesday!'

Who were the first to invent an aeroplane that didn't work? **The Wrong brothers.**

Can you telephone from an aeroplane? Of course, anyone can tell a phone from an aeroplane!

## **THE EASIER ROUTE TO THE MED**

If you plan to cruise to the Med but don't want to sail out into the Atlantic and across the infamous Bay of Biscay then why not take a leisurely meander through the French canals and rivers? Starting at from Le Havre the route is-

**River Seine, River Yonne, Canal de Bourgogne, Tunnel to Dijon, River Saone, River Rhone, and the Mediterranean. (Masts are dropped at the start and re-stepped at the Med end).**

## **THE FOLKBOAT**

She's old fashioned yet bang up to date. She's a gentleman's cruiser that can be thrashed round the cans. She's also a coastal potterer that has been sailed around the world on many occasions.

The Folkboat is full of surprises and contradictions. The result of a Scandinavian design competition, the Folk boat ended up being designed by a committee after no one winner was selected. That was in 1941, and the first Folkboats came to the UK later that decade. It proved to be very seaworthy and exciting to race, and a class association was formed. Folkboats have been built in all sorts of variations on the original Folkboat theme and I am sure that this will go on for many years to come.

## **SHORT HISTORY OF THE OUTBOARD**

Legend has it that the modern outboard engine came into being because an American engineer had almost fainted after rowing across Lake Okauchee in Wisconsin to fetch an ice cream for his lady friend. That was in 1906, and the name of that man was Ole Evinrude, and is still well known among outboard users today. In fact Evinrude was not the first, although he is the only one of the early pioneers whose name is still connected with outboards.

The way had been prepared for Evinrude's success by another American called T Reece of Philadelphia, who patented a screw propeller that was driven by hand. Attached by screw clamps, it could be moved from one boat to another and so in many ways was the forerunner of the modern outboard engine. Variations on Reece's theme followed but it was a Frenchman named 'Trouve' who, in 1888 claimed to have invented the first motorised outboard engine. His machine was driven by electricity; it wasn't until 1896 that the American Motors Company produced a petrol powered version. Evinrude's outboard followed a decade later and could develop 1.5hp via its horizontal cylinders, vertical crankshaft and underwater gear housing.

The rest is outboard history, (and I thought that it was an English man called Seagull). You live and learn!

## PUZZLE

An impoverished yachtsman (aren't we all) arrives at the fuel pontoon with a five litre container and asks the pump operator to put four litres of diesel into it. Unfortunately, the pump is broken and the only measure the pump man has is a three litre jug. How can the man measure out exactly four litres of diesel using just the two containers? **Answer on back page.**

## FANCY DRESS PARTY

A man with a bald head and a wooden leg gets invited to a fancy dress party. He doesn't know what costume to wear to hide his head and his leg, so he writes to a fancy dress company to explain his problem. A few days later he receives a parcel with a note inside. Dear Sir, Please find enclosed a pirate's outfit. The spotted bandana will cover your bald head and with your wooden leg you will be just right as a pirate. The man thinks this is terrible because they have just emphasized his wooden leg and so he writes a letter of complaint.

A week passes and he receives another parcel and a note which says. Dear Sir, Sorry about before, please find enclosed a monk's habit. The long robe will cover your wooden leg and with your bald head you will really look the part. Now the man is really annoyed since they have gone from emphasizing his wooden leg to emphasizing his bald head, and he writes the company a really rude letter of complaint.

The next day he receives a small parcel and a note that reads, Please find enclosed a tin of Golden Syrup treacle. Pour the tin of Golden Syrup treacle over your bald head, stick your wooden leg up your arse and go as a toffee apple!

## WINTER CHECKLIST

If you take your boat out of the water over the winter, don't forget to:

- Clean or change the fuel filters
- Change the engine oil and filter
- Add antifreeze to coolants
- Remove the impeller
- Coat battery terminals in light grease or Vaseline
- Remove all sails
- Secure the halyards
- Ensure that you have adequate ventilation on the boat
- Clean the heads and flush through with a soapy solution
- Service and grease the seacocks
- Pressure wash the hull
- Check hull, keels and propeller for any damage

- and make a note of all the jobs done so you don't repeat them in the Spring



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## **ALONE AROUND THE WORLD IN AN OPEN BOAT**

One of the greatest seafaring achievements, and one that went largely unnoticed, was the circumnavigation around the world by a South African named Anthony Steward – in an open 5.8m (19ft) long boat which had no cabin. There were waterproof lockers for clothes and food, but nowhere for Steward to shelter from the sun, wind and rain.

NCS Challenger also had an open transom, meaning that the waves that constantly broke over her could just drain straight off the back of the boat. Capsizes were a regular occurrence for Steward, who was almost killed when his tiny flimsy boat was struck by a large cargo vessel off the coast of South America. He was also dismasted in the Pacific Ocean and shipwrecked for nine days in a remote corner of the Seychelles. His unbelievable and courageous voyage around the world took him a very respectable 260 days.

### **Answer to Puzzle:**

First fill up the three litre jug. Pour the three litres into the five litre container until it is full. The three litre jug now contains one litre. Empty the five litre container back into the storage tank and then pour the one litre of diesel into the five litre container. Now, fill the three litre jug up again and pour that into the five litre container. The container will now contain the desired four litres of fuel. Who could be arsed doing it this way anyway?

**Warning ... Don't mention or even think about trying this at Hartlepool Marina office or you will incur the 'wrath of Bob'!**

**NEXT EDITION OF MARINA MATES IN DECEMBER! Any articles very welcome please send to [mirosa@ntlworld.com](mailto:mirosa@ntlworld.com)**