



Pin Mill Sailing Club

Circular

September 2005

The Battle of Trafalgar 200th Anniversary, 2005

In the battle of Trafalgar due to the skill and bravery of Nelson, his Commanders and their crews, they destroyed a large combined French and Spanish force. This fleet had been intended by Napoleon to sweep the British navy out of the Channel and so make way for his army ready and waiting on the French coast to cross and invade.

Without detracting from the achievement of that day, it is interesting to examine the historical framework into which this event fits.

The coastal border initially of England and Wales and subsequently after the union with Scotland in 1603, Great Britain, has since the Norman invasion of 1066 operated as a deterrent to potential invaders. Countries with land borders proving more vulnerable to attack. So the defence of the coast has always been a major concern to government even today, where worry about illegal immigration has replaced military danger.

Standard history texts and teaching tend to overlook the concern of successive governments over the possibility of invasion. The subject is too extensive to be gone into here but for those interested, Norman Longmate's two books (Defending the Island and Island Fortress) give an excellent account written from this point of view. Nevertheless one or two examples are worth noting.

Henry VIII embarked on a major defensive exercise by building castles on the coast such as along the south known as Harry's walls and adding over one hundred ships to the navy, of which the Mary Rose was an unlucky example. His daughter Elizabeth I benefited from the strengthening of the navy which allowed her to resist the Armada.

Diary

Saturday 24 September

Three Clubs Series – Race 3
Hosts RHYC

Saturday 1 October

Laying Up Supper – see tear off slip attached to this Circular

Sunday 9 October

Time Trial Ends

Saturday 15 October

Annual Nautical Photograph Competition at the Clubhouse – entries in by 12.00 please (by post or hand delivery). Our judge Phil Chatfield will discuss the results in the Clubhouse, from 20.00
Display of entries at the Clubhouse Sunday 16 October

Saturday 22 October

12.30 to 16.00: Trafalgar Day 200th Anniversary celebrations on Pin Mill Common - see details in this Circular.

19.30 for 20.00: at the Clubhouse, Grand Trafalgar Day 200th Anniversary Dinner - see tear off slip attached to this Circular.

Saturday 29 October

20.00 Halloween at the Clubhouse

Sunday 30 October

Deadline for receipt by Sailing Sec of cruising log entries

Saturday 19 November 19.30 for 20.00

Annual Dinner Dance & Prizegiving at Waldringfield Golf Club

Saturday 26 November 20.00

Annual General Meeting at the Clubhouse

Later in Stuart era, that competent Naval secretary Samuel Pepys, revitalised a run down force to engage with the Dutch. Coming to more recent times, naval strength was a serious deterrent to a German invasion in the last war. There have been minor raids such as the Dutch attack on the Medway and nearer home, the landing at Felixstowe. During the Napoleonic wars there was a French landing in Wales.

The landing by William of Orange in 1688 was more a revolution by invitation coming from those who were fed up with James II's conduct of affairs. But we haven't suffered full blown invasions.

The results of this over the years has been at least two fold. First it has fuelled development of naval power. Secondly it has ensured that British institutions have evolved without serious outside influence, whether for good or ill, depending your point of view.

Our last alien pressure came getting on for 1000 years ago with the Norman invasion. In contrast countries in mainland Europe with land borders, have time and again had to adapt wily nily to an invader. The Club Library contains a wide range of books on Naval history.

Tony Cowley

(Julian Ackland is on holiday – “Commodore’s Corner” will resume in Octobers – Ed.)

Fun and Frolics, Pin Mill Common Saturday 22 October 2005

Nina Jillings of Chelmondiston and Pin Mill Community Council has written to say that these will be the main events on Pin Mill Common, to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Bar and Barbeque opens at noon. The PMSC Hon Bar Secretary Jim Clarke and Hon Social Secretary Brad Hurst are combining to work out the logistics of this “first” for Pin Mill. Brad says he may have to camp out the night before, to guard any real ale whilst it settles!

Diary Cont ...

Our next Circular is planned to go out in the first half of October, with more about the winter programme including details of the Annual Dinner Dance.

All contributions to el.gordo@terrytowers.com by 9 October please.

No more to Michelle, who will very shortly start a new career in I.T. Our thanks to her for sterling work over past years and best wishes indeed for the future.

Any queries/offers of help with production of the Circular (from those with w.p. skills) to The Editor, 8 Rowanhayes Close, Ipswich IP2 9SX. (tel 01473 690037 (answerphone))

12.30pm - Children from the village will re enact the Battle of Trafalgar (to be arranged and directed by Susanna Bishop)

1.30pm – Music, hopefully by “High Water Mark”. Jim Clarke has been asked to try and put this together.

3.30pm – Winners of the Treasure Hunt to be announced

4.00pm – Bar closes

Nina says there is no provision for seating but visitors may bring their own, if required. The Clubhouse will be open as normal and no doubt some of our old style chairs can be borrowed from the Storeroom.

Please, will as many members as possible turn out to give this unique event some support.

A couple of officers of the Community Council have been asked to attend the Club's Trafalgar Day Dinner at the Clubhouse, in the evening. See the tear off slip attached to this Circular. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Editor

Nautical Photograph Competition 15 October 2005

It's not too soon to start thinking about your photos for this year's competition. 'Nautical' is loosely interpreted as anything with a watery theme – from the village pond to the ocean wave, and of course includes any kind of vessel. (One recent prizewinner entered a picture of a cloud formation, which was accepted as being of meteorological, and therefore navigational, importance!) Remember that you don't need an expensive camera to take a good photo – the judge will be looking for something interesting and well-composed.

Once again, Phil Chatfield has kindly agreed to judge the competition and will, we hope, discuss all the entries in the evening at 20.00. Members may not realise that EVERYONE – not just the competitors – is welcome to attend Phil's fascinating commentary on the photographs. We can all pick up tips! And, as usual, all the photos will be exhibited in the Clubhouse the next day, Sunday 16 October.

This year, as the Commodore mentioned in the last Circular, the winner will be the first recipient of a trophy which is being presented in memory of Jake Cleyndert, whose enthusiasm did so much to encourage support for this competition. The trophy will be a beautiful piece of engraved glass, created by Jake's daughter, Christina, and well worth competing for.

So let's make sure we have a record entry this year! Photographs can be sent or brought to the Clubhouse before 12 noon on Saturday 15 October – don't forget to include your name and the titles of your entries.

Marjorie Carter

Sailing, bye!

Alas, for the second year the Ladies race failed to happen, only one boat turning up for the start. However, the Brightlingsea cruise was supported by five boats. As the Hon Sailing Sec lost his crew the week before and couldn't go, Rick Kirkup stepped

in to co-ordinate the events on the day. Many thanks to him.

As you read this, the Regatta (and RNLI race) will be over and I trust I will have seen you out there in some nice sailing weather having a really good time.

The last event will be the third 3CRS race on Sept 24. After a very poor turnout for the second race (two PMSC boats) I hope more will be there for the 11am start to try to stop OYC making it a clean sweep of every race.

Hope you've all had a good season so far. Only a month left. Enjoy!!

**Laurie Thomas
Hon Sailing Sec**

RNLI

Members will recall from Alvin Storey's recent obituary that friends were invited to make donations to the RNLI, rather than send flowers to his funeral. Colin Fox has drawn to the Club's attention a thank you letter received from the Ipswich Branch RNLI Hon. Secretary, recording receipt of £277 in Alvin's memory.

The letter says how busy the Lifeboats are around our coasts, requiring 50 launchings a day and the landing of 10 people a day on average from Spring to Autumn. It goes on to point out that the Lifeboats are expanding activities into inland waterways such as the Thames and the Broads and into beach rescue.

These things as well as the development of the Tamar Class Lifeboat cost money, says the Branch Hon. Secretary.

Editor

August mini-cruise to Brightlingsea

I don't know about you but, I was getting just a little bit fed up with the weekend weather in the preceding few weeks. What joy then to have the sun for the Club's mini cruise over the August Bank Holiday period.

The choice of a slightly more adventurous destination seems to have appealed as seven boats

set out in a good sailing breeze on Saturday morning. Sadly, Slim Jim suffered mechanical problems before getting clear of the Orwell (could be time to splash out on a new engine Steve!). But by late afternoon five boats were tied up on the main pontoon, enjoying the Brightlingsea sun and soon after, a glass or two and a chinwag on board *Astraea*. The boats reflected the variety of sailing interests in PMSC – two *Stellas*, a Peter Duck, a *Starlight 35*, a *Hallberg Rassy 36* and a *Stevens 34*, the latter providing motorised luxury for Francis and Fiona those doyens of French canal cruising.

After a surfeit of peanuts and Pringles the (dare I say it?) younger set sallied forth by water taxi to sample the culinary delights of Brightlingsea, a town hitherto not renowned for its gastronomic prominence. Armed with enthusiastic recommendations from the harbour staff regarding a new South Indian style restaurant located close to the waterfront, we beat a path to its door. Sadly our request for a table for seven meant we would have had to wait a couple of hours so – not to be deterred and fired up with a desire for Indian food - we made our way to the Raj. Not so close to the front and rather more of a ‘traditional English’ Indian, it was nevertheless pretty good – and the fact that the restaurant occupies a converted scout hut only adds to the charm! Thence back to the waterfront to meet up with the other four members of the party and to enjoy a beer in the bar at the Colne YC overlooking the harbour – aren’t you sad you missed it?

On Sunday some chose to spend a second day relaxing in Brightlingsea, some ventured to the Blackwater, and others returned to the Orwell with stopovers variously in the Deben and Hamford Water, all enjoying the continuing splendid weather.

Thanks to Sailing Sec Laurie for doing the preparatory organising, to Bernie and the team at Brightlingsea for their usual warm and efficient welcome and to all the crews for making the trip such a success. Racing events may be disappearing from the PMSC calendar, but surely that ought to be all the more reason to see the cruising events prosper? One suggestion is that next year one of the Club’s mini cruises might be to Heybridge Basin: if like me you’ve never been there in your own boat, then why not make a mental note now to join in and give it a try?

Rick Kirkup

St Kat’s

Dilly Ridge quite rightly pulls me up for a howler in the August Circular i.e. wrongly printing throughout St Katharine with an “e” after the “Kath” even to the extent of altering contributions (including her own) which had been submitted correctly in the form of “St Katharine Docks”.

Dilly goes on to point out that the marina there is styled somewhat differently, as St Katharine’s Marina.

I hope this correction and information reassure fellow sailors that we are not in fact “a load of nitwits”, which was Dilly’s understandable concern. We must make sure the Almanac gets it correct too next year (if Committee decides to go once more).

Editor

Deep Water Moorings

Since the dramatic outcome of the Appeal by Ipswich Borough Council in the case of Duke & Moore, papers have accumulated about its effects on charges for moorings. These have been scattered in back copies of *Sailing Today* and pamphlets, giving the words of our very own Patrick Sinclair. These have become unwieldy so a special file has been made up.

This consists of The Appeal Judgement, two pamphlets on the legal position on moorings written by Patrick Sinclair and a number of articles and letters filleted from *Sailing Today*. The latter include the important article in June 2005 describing steps to be taken and the importance of recording ancient rights.

Everything can now be read without leafing through back numbers of magazines. If members know of other documents that should be included, please tell me so I can as may be necessary copy and include them.

**Tony Cowley
Hon Librarian**

Memories of Geoffrey Davies 1916 – 2005

The funeral of long standing Club member Geoffrey took place at St Mary's Church, Harkstead, on Monday 27 June. It was very well attended by friends young and old.

Tony Cowley writes:- Geoffrey Davies, who sadly passed away in June at the age of 89, was a member of Pin Mill Sailing Club for over 35 years. After managing the family business in Hawaii, where he was also British Consul, he retired and took over Joan's parents' house in Lower Holbrook.

I once asked him how he came to be in Hawaii and he told me an ancestor was working in Manchester in the mid 1800's when a merchant from Hawaii came into the office and complained that his business there was suffering, because the book keepers he engaged used to get drunk and run away with the native women. The ancestor's boss suggested that he offer a place to Davies who was a strong chapel man and would not behave in that way. The upshot was that Geoffrey's grandfather went to Hawaii via San Francisco, round Cape Horn by sailing ship and was followed in the business by several generations of the Davies family.

Another of his tales was that in the records of the Hawaii business was a message sent by a relation in the Philippines, warning of the attack on Pearl Harbour two weeks before it happened. He believed the information had also been conveyed by British Intelligence to the Americans.

For many years, Geoffrey kept his motor sailor Alice W just off the end of Pin Mill Hard and subsequently downsized to a Cornish Shrimper, Hunakai (Hawaiian name for the wader Sanderling) which was moored in Holbrook Creek. He liked PMSC for its friendly atmosphere and dynamic management that got things done. Like so many other unsung supporters of the Club, he devoted time as Race Officer and collector of monies for the refurbishment of the Hard. Once we both attended a VHF course and had the usual trouble of remembering the phonetic alphabet. I suggested to him that my trick was to read off car number plates as a practice. Next week he said he had followed

my idea and nearly had a major road accident! He was always a pleasant and interesting man to talk to and I will miss running into him at the Club and having a chat.

His son Peter Davies and daughter Susan Sinclair (wife of Life Hon. Member Patrick Sinclair) are members of PMSC.

Susan Sinclair writes:- My father first got to know the Shotley Peninsula and its rivers during World War II, when he was based at Parkeston Quay in the converted trawler HMS Greenfly. There is a tale that he and a boatload of sailors once rowed across the Stour to offer help with the harvest but they ended up enjoying beer in the Queens Head Erwarton! During the same period he kept a motorbike behind the Bristol Arms for visits to meet a certain young lady from Holbrook: the Butt & Oyster was known to be able to find an egg for tea for men in uniform.

Grandchildren report that helping this former Hard Fund Treasurer collect money involved washing the sticky, beery cash from the bartop collecting boxes before counting it.

He is survived by three generations of family with a love of Pin Mill mud!



PMSC LAYING UP SUPPER
CLUB'S 70th ANNIVERSARY YEAR
AT THE CLUBHOUSE, 19.30 FOR 20.00
SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER

ROCKET, PARMESAN AND PEAR SALAD

.....

CHICKEN SCALOPPINE WITH FRESH HERBS

SEASONAL VEGETABLES

.....

CHOCOLATE POT

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SELECTION OF ITALIAN CHEESES

.....

ALL AT £11.50 PER HEAD

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Any special requirements	

PMSC

TRAFALGAR DAY 200TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

AT THE CLUBHOUSE, 19.30 FOR 20.00

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER

TRAFALGAR DAY ROAST BEEF

.....

APPLE PIE WITH CREAM OR CUSTARD

.....

STILTON

.....

COFFEE AND GROG

.....

FOR £9 PER HEAD

Please return this completed form with a cheque made payable to P.M.S.C for the full cost of your order, no later than 15 October, to:-

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