

Event Brief & info AMENDED re Saturday Night Buffet Stephen Hinde 10 June 2012 (1/5)

This Brief is being sent out well in advance to encourage Family Holiday Plans, together with Tide Tables, & Booking Form which **Please return** with Preliminary information **as soon as possible**.

MOA 21st Year Celebration “MacGregor Muster”
24-27 August 2012 (Bank Holiday) Haven Ports Yacht Club
at Suffolk Yacht Harbour (Levington), IP10 0LN

NB Change Of Venue from the Brief published in the Magazine & at the AGM due to the large interest already registered in this Landmark Event

Summary

Friday 24th August Launch at Suffolk Yacht Harbour (SYH) - easy access from the A14.
18.15. for 19.00. **Reception & Dinner** at Haven Ports YC on Lightship “LV87”
Saturday 25th Berth & **Casual Buffet Supper** at Titchmarsh Marina, Walton Backwaters
Or Inland River Cruising for the “Inland Squadron” if preferred.
Sunday 26th Berth at Shotley Marina with evening reservation at Shipwreck Restaurant
for Crews to make their own arrangements.
Monday 27th Recover at SYH - or stay on & cruise the Rivers Orwell & Stour.
Options include unescorted sea passages North to the Rivers Deben & Ore,
or up to Lowestoft to enter the Norfolk Broads, or South to the Blackwater,
or recover & trail to the Broads.

Full Directions & information are included in the Websites listed
A14 Exit 58 (2nd after Orwell Bridge), signs to Levington & Marina (Not Levington Village)

One of the beauties of the Orwell & Harwich Harbour is the choice it offers especially for Groups of mixed experience some of whom may prefer to stay on inland waters.

Having said that, the proposed visit to Arthur Ransome's Secret Water, properly known as Walton Backwaters, is only 2 miles down the Coast across Harwich Bay & there will be plenty of other boats to reassure novices.

Land based options.

The Suffolk /Essex coast also offers many other **Family** Tourist Attractions & the Event could offer non sailing **wives/partners & children** opportunities to enjoy whilst still meeting up with the sailors in the family in the evening e.g. Walton on the Naze, the Suffolk Coast, Woodbridge & Sutton Hoo as well as Norfolk, “**Nelson's County**” & **the Broads**. Some Members are considering including the Event as part of a Family Holiday on the East Coast.

The Plan will be to meet at the Haven Ports Yacht Club (HPYC) Lightship(LV87) in Suffolk Yacht Harbour (SYH) on the Friday of the Bank Holiday August 24th for a
Pimms Reception & Dinner at 6.15. for 7 p.m.

The Reception will be on the Top Deck with the Dinner in the “Trinity Room” on the Lower Deck. We can accommodate up to around 70 people for this Function so Members that are within driving distance who may not be able to bring their boat for the full Event will be very welcome to come for the Reception & Dinner only & possibly stay in a B&B. Cost of the Dinner including the Reception is £21 (Drinks with the meal extra, to be purchased at the Bar before Dinner starts)

The weekend will also include some special surprises for the MOA's 21st year!

All MOA Members & Crew will need to “sign in” at the Reception at HPYC .

On Arrival, whichever day, at the SYH Barrier, turn Right & passing the Harbour Master's Office in the large modern building on your left (where you will later need to Report & collect the WC code), drive on to the far perimeter fence & turn left by the WC block to park & rig (possibly rigging later).

Hopefully most people will arrive during the day on Friday if not earlier. The HPYC Lightship is at the other side of the Marina (if you had turned Left at the barrier). There is no space at the slipway to rig so boats trail round from the Car/Trailer Park with the mast up.

Berths will be reserved for all Boats at SYH on the Friday night. The Slipway use is not dependant tides (although the nearer to HW the better - HW Thurs 16.17., Fri 17.05., Sat 05.38.) & assistance will be available if Skippers need it from Bob Spalding Marine(Tel.01473-659674) near the Slipway at a small charge. More likely, another Mac Skipper will be around to help. A cable is provided so the vehicle does not have to go down the slip or slide off the end! However I always launch carefully of the back of my 4x4. Boats arriving by road too late to rig & launch on the Friday – and still be in time for the Party – can stay on the trailers & launch on Saturday morning. The marina is well lit & Skippers still sober could rig after Dinner if they felt so inclined! There is plenty of car & trailer Parking.

Options at SYH include **Caravan** / Motor home / Tent, (all booked through Harbour Master Tel: 01473 659465), as well as nearby B&B's, Premier Inn etc. (See websites below).

There will be a 3 course menu (attached) with choices & these will **need to be confirmed & paid for 2 weeks in advance**. (see Booking form attached). Drinks & wine can be ordered from the bar & credit cards are accepted – but no tabs! This can be done before, as well as during the Dinner.

As it's our Anniversary Year & the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Commodore & maybe one or two others will “say a few words!” after Dinner. It's “Party Night” after all !

The Day Plan for Saturday depends on what state boats are in:-.

For those boats happy to go outside the Harbour there will be a **Buffet Supper at Titchmarsh Marina** at Walton Backwaters on **Saturday Night at a cost of £14.95 per head + Drinks**

Whether launched on Friday or Saturday morning boats can depart at when they choose on Saturday as Titchmarsh is only 1-2 hours away under power.

The **Backwaters & the Walton Channel** up to the Walton & Frinton Yacht Basin are worth exploring on a rising tide. These are the “Secret Waters” of Arthur Ransome's book. **Harwich Bay** & further offshore offers open coastal sailing.

Those who might wish to stay inshore can:-

a) go up to **Ipswich** Haven Marina – Berths provisionally booked, passing Fox's Marina, est'd 1927 & the home of “Oyster” Yachts & “Spirit” Yachts.

b) go just up to **Pin Mill**.- pick up a buoy but need a dinghy.

Famous for the 17th Century Butt & Oyster pub & favourite place for artists. There is often one or more Thames Barges moored there.

c) cruise round into the **Stour** – lovely wide sailing river – Wrabness Beach – Manningtree (tidal).

d) Spend the night back at SYH (no advance reservations yet made) or MDL Marina at Woolverstone or “Drop the Hook” in the Stour or pick up a buoy off Wrabness.

e) another Port of call could be Halfpenny Pier at Harwich Town Heritage Quay, the departure point for the “Mayflower”.

We could possibly have an “Inland Squadron “ & an “Offshore Squadron”.

However, Walton Backwaters are only approx. 2 sea miles down the coast & there will be plenty of support amongst the Fleet to reassure inland water boats

Saturday Night Buffet at Titchmarsh Marine

The Buffet will be served from 8.00pm in a private marquee (a new facility at the Marina this year). Weather permitting there is outdoor seating but under cover seating is also provided so we are not weather dependant.

This will need to be pre-booked & pre-paid. Whilst hopefully everybody will want to join in the Buffet, DIY facilities are available for BBQ purists, but the only way to accommodate our numbers is on the pre-booked & pre-paid basis. Any non arrivals at HPYC by Friday evening can be refunded but there is a 24 hour deadline for changes to the Buffet numbers necessary to obtain a refund.

Numbers attending must be included as an additional item on the Booking Form.

Sunday Night would be at **Shotley Marina**, which located on the confluence of the Orwell & the Stour on the site of HMS Ganges, the Ex Naval Training Base which closed in 1976. The 142' Mast is still there & you stand on the button at the top where the “Button Boy” used to stand – as it's now on the floor in the Museum!

Boats “Lock in” to the marina & berths are reserved. All boats could meet there but people may want to be free to do their own thing & not be too organised.

Although no specific times or menus have been arranged , The Shipwreck Restaurant does very good food & the “Back Bar” which can accommodate nearly 50 people has been Reserved from 18.30.hrs.

Breakfast is available on Monday at The Shipwreck from 10am.

Monday

Boats make their way back to the Slip at SYH possibly after cruising back out to sea or up the Stour or calling in at Pin Mill (see options for Saturday)

OR if anyone was going to make a longer trip they could go up the Coast to the **Deben or the Alde** (pilotage charts for these tricky entrances can be downloaded from the websites) or plan a longer trip to Lowestoft & enter the **Norfolk Broads**.

A passage South to **The Blackwater** is another option. We have one MOA Member who plans to sail up from the Blackwater on Friday.

A further **option** would be to recover the Boat & **trail to the Broads**.

All the above offshore options would be under your own steam or as a small group & **not as part of the Event**.

Life Jackets are recommended to be worn on Deck

No River Licences or Boat Safety Certificates are required

£3 million 3rd party Insurance required

Payments for Berths @ Group Rates must be made direct to the Harbour Masters

My contact details are in the latest Magazine:-

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Mobile (when on!) 0776 179 3049 Jan's Mobile (also when on!) 0776 179 3048

I hope most communications will be by email but please telephone my landline if necessary

Useful Websites – Please at least look on Harwich Harbour Authority for the Yachting Guide (hard copies will be available at the Event)

Harwich Haven Authority
(with Yachting Guide which
**shows the whole area & should
be viewed**). Hard copies will be
available at the Event

www.hha.co.uk click on “Leisure”

**Suffolk Yacht Harbour
Haven Ports Yacht Club**
Lilac Cottage B&B in Levington

www.syharbour.co.uk
www.hpyc.com
lenandjo.wenham@btinternet.com
Tel. 01473 659509

The Sail Loft (accommodation)
Royal Harwich Yacht Club
Woolverstone Marina
Harwich/Mayflower Museum
Ipswich Haven Marina
The Last Anchor
(Restaurant at Ipswich Haven)

www.eastanglianseaschool.com
www.royalharwichyachtclub.co.uk
www.woolverstonemarina.co.uk
www.harwich.net
www.ipswichhavenmarina.co.uk
www.thelastanchor.co.uk
Tel.01473 214763

Titchmarsh Marina
Harbour Lights Restaurant Titchmarsh

www.titchmarshmarina.com

Shotley Marina
Shipwreck Restaurant

www.shotleymarina.co.uk

Tel. 01473 788865

Walton on the Naze
Naze Marine (Walton)
Pin Mill Butt & Oyster

www.waltononthenaze.com

www.parkresorts.com

www.debeninns.co.uk

The Oyster Reach Travel Inn
(Nr Fox's & Woolverstone)

www.premierinn.com/ipswichsouth

Tel 01473 692372

Rive Deben Entrance

www.eastcoastrivers.com

River Ore Entrance

www.eastcoastrivers.com

Arthur Ransome Society

www.arthur-ransome.org

See also the 2 books by Arthur Ransome available from Public Libraries:-

“We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea” + “Secret Water”. Although written for children in the 1930s, they give a fascinating insight & many of the Navigation Buoys are still in place.

Costs

Marinas	£15 – 18 per night
SYH Slipway+Car/ trailer Parking	£20
Friday Reception & Dinner	£ 21 per head + Dinner Wine/Drinks
Saturday Buffet Supper	£14.95 per head + Drinks
Sunday night at Shipwreck	Bar meals from £7.50

Waypoint

Pye End Buoy 51.55.00.N 01.18.00.E

This Red/White Buoy lies in the middle of Harwich Bay (see HHA Guide on their website – and /or Hard Copy) & is not as large as the main Channel Marker Buoys & other Marks; in poor visibility it is sometimes difficult to locate by line of sight. It is a useful waypoint for picking up the Walton Channel buoys.

Charts

Imray Y16

East Coast Rivers (Yachting Monthly Pilot)

However the Harwich Harbour Yachting Guide will probably be sufficient for most people.

Tides

See Table attached. NB All times shown are UTC (GMT) - Add 1 hour for BST
(HW – BST -Thurs 16.17., Fri 17.05., Sat 05.38.)

Navigation

Felixstowe is the UK's largest container port, cruise ships & ferries go in & out of Harwich & Ipswich is a commercial port. **Avoid crossing the bows of on-coming commercial traffic.**

VHF

Channel 72 will be the Working Channel for the Event

Channel 80 is the normal Marina Channel & should be used to call when approaching Titchmarsh & Shotley.

At Shotley the Harbour Master will allocate the berths & provide the WC code when the boat is in the Lock.

Ipswich Haven is also approached through a lock (see Harwich Harbour Guide).

Dinghy As mentioned a dinghy is needed at Pin Mill & might be useful for “other activities”!

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Obviously some of the above is “Weather Dependant” although the Reception & Dinner are weatherproof & some Members are coming by Road for this Function only. The payment 2 weeks in advance for the Function will be non refundable after Wed 22nd as the HPYC will be buying the food in specially.

As a famous “Mac” once famously said “ You Have Never Had It So Good ! ”
Let's hope he was also referring to the weather forecast for this August Bank Holiday.