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# HOLLOWSHORE NEWS

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Spring 2006

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## SPRING NEWSLETTER

*Dear Member,*

We have had a successful winter season with the Sunday bar sessions being well supported. We have also had well-supported events such as the Wine and Wisdom evening and the Fitting-Out supper.

One innovation was the Boat Jumble, and I think this was enjoyed by all participants and visitors. I for one was amazed at the items I was able to produce, and gratified that some of these found purchasers! I think other participants found the same and it may be something we can repeat in future.

Dick Holness has kindly agreed to produce a Newsletter for a while on a twice yearly basis, and this is the first of the series. I hope you find it interesting and informative and that it will go from strength to strength in future issues. Newsletters of this type always benefit if there is a feedback from readers and I therefore hope that the present issue may inspire you to respond or contribute your own efforts to future issues.

Writing this in mid-March, we are approaching the beginning of the season despite the uninviting weather, and you are no doubt waiting for that break to bring your vessels to pristine perfection. In the hope that this will not be too long delayed, I wish you all every enjoyment and success in the forthcoming season.

*David Williams*  
*Commodore*

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*Brian behaving badly at the Fitting-out Supper*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 12<sup>th</sup> May**      **St.Katharines Cruise** – depart for Queenborough. (John Kerr)
- 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May**      **Ramsgate Weekend** – and the outward journey will be a race for the Jack Allen Cup.
- 9<sup>th</sup> June**      **Netherlands Cruise** begins (John Kerr)
- 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June**      **Swale Regatta** (Dick Holness)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June**      **Swale Regatta Prizegiving** at HCC
- 5<sup>th</sup> August**      **Hollowshore CC Barbecue**
- 6<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Oct**      **St. Katharines Cruise** starts again
- 28<sup>th</sup> October**      **Laying-Up Supper**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December**      **AGM & Christmas Party**
- 24<sup>th</sup> December**      **Christmas Drinks & Nibbles**
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## PROPOSED LONDON ARRAY WIND FARM

The London Array wind farm, if it happens, will be a 270-turbine monster, straddling the Long Sand, the Kentish Knock, and the Knock Deep.

There was some anxiety expressed at the last AGM, about the East Swale entrance being closed, whilst the cables delivering the power from the wind farm were brought ashore at Cleve Hill. (Incredibly, they propose to bring them all the way up here instead of running them ashore somewhere on Thanet!).

It was initially thought by the developers that they would have to block the East Swale for a considerable period during the cable laying. Apparently the developers were unaware of the nature of the East Swale and its use for both leisure and fishing vessels.

However, Don Cockrill, on behalf of the MYA, has been in discussion with the developers and, in very simple terms, the current projected scenario is that each of the four cables required will be laid in the Swale over four one-week periods, over four summers, each week occurring over a neap tide in August. Apparently this is required by the Environment Agency, as the sea wall will have to be breached on each occasion and neap tides in August are the period of minimum risk. The cables will run from the shore seawards, rather than the other way, as was the case at Hampton Pier for the Kentish Flats scheme.

The actual guard zone around the barge is likely to be similar to that of the Kentish Flats Scheme, i.e. about 1km in any direction. However, much of the laying will be across the oyster beds and at less than high water, so there is unlikely to be much disruption to local pleasure craft or fishing vessels. It has been suggested that it would be sensible to motor past the barge, rather than sail (depending on the wind direction).

That said, the development may never happen - apparently the PLA have objected to the scheme as a safety threat to shipping using the Black Deep and Fisherman's Gat channels, and of course there is vociferous opposition to the sub-station proposals at Cleve. And perhaps the powers-that-be will decide that wind farms are no longer flavour of the month anyway. So it would seem we have a "watch and wait" situation.

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## ALL AT SEA WITH THE FIRE BRIGADE !

Red faces at Kent Fire & Rescue recently, when some of them were apparently exploring the East Swale in a RIB in the dark. The RIB ended up high and dry on the Horse Sand 300 yards WSW of the Sand End buoy, following "a technical error with its navigation system and an unlit buoy", and the three occupants were rescued by the lads and lasses from Whitstable Lifeboat

Could happen to anyone, couldn't it?

As the 16th Century Genoese astronomer Cassini apparently said: "It is better to have absolutely no idea where one is and to know it, than to believe confidently that one is where one is not".

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## CLUB TROPHIES

During the winter the trophy record boards have been brought up to date (thank you very much to Adrian Munnings), and the Committee had a re-think about the trophies themselves and what they are awarded for.

In the process they came up with some unanswered questions, so perhaps you can help –

- Does anyone know if there actually is a 'Half Pint Pot' ? It's the trophy for the best cruising log, the author being under 16. Does it exist?
- Does anyone know where the 'Mary Legg Trophy' is, and what it was awarded for? It was last presented in 1993.

Answers on a postcard to any Committee member, please!

The committee has agreed a new purpose for the **Viking Cup**, which will go to the 'Member of the Year', decided at the committee's discretion! As you will have seen from the 'Forthcoming Events', the **Jack Allen Trophy** will be dusted off and awarded this year for a race to Ramsgate, the first leg of a Ramsgate Weekend Cruise. And the **Madge Barker Cup** has already been re-assigned – it now goes to the best HCC boat in Swale Regatta, not winning any other trophy in the event.

Trophies were awarded at the AGM as follows:

**Psyche Trophy** (most ports and anchorages): John Kerr.

**Lucent Pot** (best log): Dick and Angela Holness

The **Hollowshore Cup** (most miles logged) and

**Ron Lintott Trophy** (skipper's first channel crossing) had no nominations for 2005.

The Committee are keen to see interest in the trophies revived and would like to see *lots of nominations at the end of this year!*

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## FROM THE EDITOR.....

David mentioned that I had agreed to produce the newsletter for a while. I'm happy to do it for a year or two, unless of course someone else *really* wants to do it!

If you've given the club an email address, then this edition will have arrived by email in PDF form (in colour!). This of course saves the club money in postage and printing costs, so if you've received a paper copy (in black and white!) but already use email, please can you tell Mike Perkins your email address?

Just finally - I can't possibly write the whole newsletter myself, so *PLEASE* send me material for it, anything you like remotely boaty or HCC-related. The next will come out just before the AGM.

Thank you!

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## ANY OLD CHAIN ?

Do you have any old anchor chain that you want to get rid of? Herne Bay SC are on the lookout for some, they use it to secure boats down in their

promenade dinghy park. Rust is not a problem!  
Let Dick Holness know (01227-366831 or  
dick.holness@virgin.net) and someone will  
arrange to collect it from you.

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## ODE TO ELECTRONICS.....

I must go down to the sea again, in a modern  
high-tech boat,  
And all I ask is electric, for comfort while afloat,  
And alternators, and solar panels, and generators  
going,  
And deep cycle batteries with many amperes  
flowing.

I must go down to the sea again, to the autopilot's  
ways,  
And all I ask is a GPS, and a radar, and displays,  
And a cell phone, and a weather-fax, and a short-  
wave radio,  
And compact disks, computer games and TV  
videos.

I must go down to the sea again, with a freezer full  
of steaks,  
And all I ask is a microwave, and a blender for  
milkshakes,  
And a water-maker, air-conditioner, hot water in  
the sink,  
And e-mail and a VHF to see what my buddies  
think.

I must go down to the sea again, with power-  
furling sails,  
And chart displays of all the seas, and a bullhorn  
for loud hails,  
And motors pulling anchor chains, and push-  
button sheets,  
And programs which take full charge of tacking  
during beats.

I must go down to the sea again, and not leave  
friends behind,  
And so they never get seasick we'll use the web  
online,  
And all I ask is an Internet with satellites over me,  
And beaming all the data up, my friends sail  
virtually.

I must go down to the sea again, record the  
humpback whales,  
Compute until I decipher their language and their  
tales,  
And learn to sing in harmony, converse beneath  
the waves,  
And befriend the gentle giants as my synthesizer  
plays.

I must go down to the sea again, with RAM in  
gigabytes,  
And teraflops of processing for hobbies that I like,

And software suiting all my wants, seated at my  
console  
And pushing on the buttons which give me  
complete control.

I must go down to the sea again, my concept  
seems quite sound,  
But when I simulate this boat, some problems I  
have found.  
The cost is astronomical, repairs will never stop,  
Instead of going sailing, I'll be shackled to the  
dock.

I must go down to the sea again, how can I get  
away?  
Must I be locked in low-tech boats until my dying  
day?  
Is there no cure for my complaint, no technologic  
fix?  
Oh, I fear this electric fever is a habit I can't kick.

*With apologies to John Masfield*

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## INIQUITOUS TAXES (1)

The "conservancy fee" charged by Medway Ports  
is going up this year, to £46.05. *(Any member  
who can satisfactorily explain how this money is  
spent to our benefit, please contact the Editor!)*

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## INIQUITOUS TAXES (2)

By the end of this year, your Ship's Radio Licence  
will become a 'lifetime' licence, which means that  
provided you don't change your ship or your ship's  
name, you will be able to stop coughing up £20  
each year!

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## FITTING-OUT SUPPER



*Rod trying not to behave badly*

The Fitting-Out Supper was a howling success,  
with a capacity crowd, excellent food, staggering  
portions, and, wait for it.....WAITRESS SERVICE!

This innovation was introduced by Ann Campbell, who persuaded her daughter, and her Daughter's Friend, to turn up and dish out. And good for them, they entered into the spirit of it, sold twice the usual number of raffle tickets, and looked as though they really enjoyed themselves. Please come again!

Thanks too, to the 15 stalwarts who turned up to clear up on Sunday morning. Thank you!

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## MARINE WATCH

The MYA and Medway Neighbourhood Watch have got together to form 'Marine Watch', which is meant to work along neighbourhood-watch lines,



in an effort to reduce the petty crime and vandalism which is a problem especially along the Medway. Warning signs are available from the MYA at £10 each, and the genial chap on the right of picture is PC Steve Elliott, who runs Kent Police Marine Unit and is also a yottie.

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## THE 'E111' IS NO MORE

When cruising across the Channel you no doubt carried your E111 form, which (allegedly) helped you to get health treatment in other EU countries if you were unlucky enough to need it.

**BUT** the E111 is no more. It has been replaced by a plastic card, the EHIC, which is very quickly obtained by visiting [www.dh.gov.uk/travellers](http://www.dh.gov.uk/travellers), or by ringing 0845 605 0707. It's free, too - just be ready with your personal details including your N.I. number.

Don't neglect to do this - your E111 is no longer valid!!

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## BLINKING LIGHTS

When Medway Ports and Trinity House get it all working (not yet at the time of writing), you will find the lighting in the East Swale very different.

The Columbine, Columbine Spit and the Ham Gat have all been lit, all flashing Fl.G.2s, simultaneously! This magic happens by GPS; each light unit has a GPS receiver in it and uses the clock information. Furthermore, the lights on the Sand End and Receptive, have also been changed, and also flash exactly the same - so you will see all five lights flashing together. This is a trial to see how useful it is as a route guide. Sometime in the summer, the flashing will be changed to show a sequence, leading you into the Swale. Trinity House are anxious for feedback, and if you look on their website at [www.trinityhouse.co.uk](http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk), under 'Aids to Navigation', you will find a feedback form.

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## SWALE REGATTA JUNE 16-18<sup>TH</sup>

A few changes this year:

- all handicaps have been reviewed and many changed, after a lot of arithmetic!
- Friday night will probably be at Conyer.
- Gaffers are now invited, with separate prizes.
- 'Dressed-overall' competition Saturday evening at Queenborough.
- winner of each fleet each day, but no overall day's winner.
- best two out of three races to count.
- overall Regatta winner will either be winner of Fast fleet or winner of Slow fleet, according to series results.

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## LOO BY NUMBERS

The combination lock on the toilet seems to have worked, in that the widespread 'non-member' usage of the loo has (hopefully) stopped. But.....it may well be that the hordes of non-members who somehow had a key before may eventually learn the number, so, beware, the committee may well change the number again at some stage!

If and when the time comes, any new number will of course be posted in the clubhouse.

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## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUB ?

Just a polite reminder, really! There are still some subs unpaid, so please, if you've forgotten, get the money off to Jackie Perkins. If you don't, you won't see another newsletter!

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### HOLLOWSHORE NEWS

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