



The Never Setting Sun



# Smack Dock Soundings

THE JOURNAL OF THE COLNE SMACK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Prawner *Empress* MT73 and smack *Martha 2* MN69 at this year's Heybridge Basin Regatta.  
*Photo David Chandler.*

**Chairman** Nicky Ennion.  
Plough House, Plough Lane, Leavenheath, Suffolk  
CO6 4PL.  
Tel  
**Journal Editor** Lucy Harris  
22 The Waterside, Brightlingsea, Essex CO70BB  
Tel. 07528 156 459  
e-mail [lucy@pangolin.co.nz](mailto:lucy@pangolin.co.nz)

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the CSPS or its committee.

## From the editor...

A fine warm summer has abruptly turned into a wet and windy autumn, but the smacks are making the most of what's left of the season with the recent Colne Match attracting a fair turn-out despite the awful forecast. Fortunately the gallons of rain predicted for the day had mostly disappeared by start time and the northerly wind made for good racing in calm water. The first recipient of the new prize, the Webb/Percival Cup for smacks under 36', went to *Gracie* CK46, and it is to be hoped that the trophy will attract a return of the smaller boats to the Match in future.





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Our Chairman, Nicky Ennion, has spent much of the summer laid up, but has been seen out and about again recently. We wish him a continued recovery and hope he and Jo get out on the water in *Eliza Maud* a little this autumn.

## CSPS News - Judy Lawrence

### Shanty Night 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013

This year the Shanty Night was held at the Colne Yacht Club. As we climbed the stairs and looked out of the windows we were greeted with a glorious sunset, and Tony and his team had arranged the tables for us which looked most welcoming. Fish pie, and the alternative option with new potatoes and vegetables followed by apple pie and custard seemed to go down well. We were entertained by the lively Jasper Ceilidh Band and during the evening Jim Lawrence kept us chuckling with his jokes and songs. A raffle was held, and together with the proceeds of the evening, £396 was raised for the benefit of local charities. Donations of £100 each were made to the 4 Youth club, Brightlingsea Minibus service and the First Responders. Judy Lawrence thanked everyone for and looked forward to seeing them again next year.

### Brightlingsea Boat Show and Regatta 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Despite rather unsettled weather around 90 folk visited the Smack Dock to admire the smacks and bawleys, and take in the wonderful view. Visitors came from various parts, including two families from America, and part of the Harman family over from

Australia. The most repeated remark was 'Oh, we didn't know this was here!' Several people stopped for a cup of tea and a chat, and signed the visitors' book; the Busted Knuckle Band wandered over from the pub and entertained us with some great music in the afternoon. A successful weekend, and one to be repeated next year.

### Clean-up Day Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 10am

Come and get your hands dirty - help us tidy up the Smack Dock and carry out a few jobs. It would be helpful if you could bring your own tools, but tea /coffee provided.

### CSPS kit

Sweat shirts £15

Short sleeved polo shirts £10

Both in navy blue, with our emblem being embroidered this time (rather than printed), which looks really nice.

Please contact Judy 01206 304663 for details etc.

### Sail and Picnic June 2013 – Lois Wilmot

For years I have admired graceful fishing smacks, gliding over the waves with powerful sails. My ambition to join in was realised when I was lucky enough to be on board magnificent *Alberta*, a beautifully restored 19<sup>th</sup> century oyster smack. Grateful thanks to Robin and crew.

Kind Regards,  
L Wilmot





## Summer racing pictorial- David Chandler

### Blackwater Match 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013



*My Alice CK348 leads Marigold MN119 and Empress MT73 past Osea Island*



*Martha 2 MN69, Charlotte Ellen CK258 and Ethel Alice CK476 fight it out below Osea*

The Match was early this year, which perhaps explains why the turn-out was relatively small as the late spring meant that many were still fitting out. 10 smacks competed, with the start off Osea being bright but hazy, but conditions deteriorated somewhat becoming very dull on the return leg from Mersea.



*Sunbeam CK328 and Ethel Alice CK476 on the homeward leg*

### Heybridge Basin Regatta 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013



*Lizzie Annie MN23 and Martha 2 MN69 after the start*

Only three smacks competed in this race, which was very windy with a cloudy start, fining up later.



*Martha 2 MN69 and Empress MT73*



*Martha 2 MN69 and Empress MT73 at Hillypool Point*



## COLNE MATCH RESULTS

15<sup>th</sup> September 2013

H.W. 0655 - Wind moderate decreasing to light NNW, overcast with early drizzle.

Course 'A'; Smacks start 0830, Barges 0900

Smack	Number	Time	Place
<i>Alberta</i>	CK318	3 38 15	1 <sup>st</sup>
<i>My Alice</i>	CK348	3 55 53	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<i>Charlotte Ellen</i>	CK258	3 57 53	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<i>Iris Mary</i>	CK105	4 00 23	
<i>Peace</i>	CK171	4 01 38	
<i>Our Boys</i>	CK92	4 28 11	
<i>Gracie</i>	CK46	4 33 07	
<i>Fly</i>	MN17	4 34 11	15min penalty (over start)
<i>Nellie</i>	CK276	4 49 32	15min penalty (over start)
<i>Pembeth</i>	F7	6 18 56	
<i>Maria</i>	CK21		-Retired-

Barge	Time	Place
<i>Edme</i>	3 48 20	1 <sup>st</sup>
<i>Niagara</i>	4 00 34	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<i>Edith May</i>	4 14 18	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<i>Decima</i>	4 33 28	4 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Melissa</i>	4 35 26	
<i>Reminder</i>	5 17 57	
<i>Repertor</i>		-Retired-

First smack over the start- *Peace*

First smack under 36'- *Gracie*

First barge over the start- *Edme*

No bawleys raced.

Best Restoration - *Charlotte Ellen*

Seamanship prize not awarded

### The *Lorena* Tragedy of 1903 - Ann Berry

At 11:15 on the night of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August 1903 the steam turbine yacht *Lorena* was anchored in the Colne off Brightlingsea. Built in Leith, and with a Scottish crew, she was said to have been the most luxurious steam yacht to have been built up to that time. She was undergoing her sea trials before her final fit-out and had moored off Brightlingsea to refuel with coal.

That night, nine crew members, mostly stokers, assembled on the Hard and boarded a dinghy to return to the yacht, rowed by two Brightlingsea men. The dinghy was carrying twice as many as it should have, and the seas

became rougher the further they rowed. About four hundred yards from its destination the dinghy was swamped by water and those on the yacht *Lorena* could hear the men's cries for help.

One of those on board the *Lorena* was the then-Deputy of the Cinque Port Liberty of Brightlingsea, William Miall Green. He took command and sent the *Lorena's* cutter in the direction of the cries. They managed to rescue only two men, one of *Lorena's* crew and one Brightlingsea man.

The next morning five bodies were found, and later that day two more, one being the other Brightlingsea man, Joseph Lock. The following





day the last body was found washed up on Cindery Island.

Four days later, seven of men were laid in their coffins in one large grave and the following day Joseph Lock was buried separately alongside them. Joseph Lock was a bricklayer by trade but had been helping with the coaling to earn extra money for his family. The *Lorena's* steward, David Wilson was buried a week later. His sister, who attended the burial, wrote "*I wish to thank all the Brightlingsea people for the kind sympathy shown by all, both to the living and the dead.*" Other relatives also wrote praising the kindness of the Brightlingsea people.

Large numbers of the men's relatives attended the funeral, their expenses in travelling from Scotland being paid by the owner of the *Lorena*.

A Memorial Service was held at St James' Church, Brightlingsea on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013 to commemorate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the drowning of the nine men from the yacht *Lorena*. The Reverend Anne Howson led the service at the site of their unmarked grave. Judy Lawrence, and Jim and Pauline Lawrence attended as representatives of the Colne Smack Preservation Society, and Jim read the sailors' version of the Twenty-Third Psalm. Wreaths were laid by the Deputy of the Cinque Port of Brightlingsea and the Mayor of Brightlingsea.



Yacht *Lorena* 1903

## Historic Harbour Flensburg visit - Bill Williams

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 a small group of German enthusiasts from the Historic Harbour at Flensburg came to visit

Brightlingsea. I met Martin Schultz, Frank Petry (Harbour Master, Flensburg) and Rainer Pruss (author of the hardback book 'Rum Regatta') down on The Hard at midday. We walked along to the 'Smacksman's Return' where Judy Lawrence and Ann Berry kindly laid on tea, coffee and biscuits. Martin presented the CSPA with a bottle of Flensburg rum and a copy of his book. They took many photos of the vessels in our dock.

We moved on to the Pioneer Trust, where John Lane provided an informative and very interesting tour of their venture. The Flensburg group appeared impressed by the work involved in building the Harker's Yard Gigs, including the construction of their specialist oars.

Following on from the Pioneer Trust we visited Gary Humm's Yard where the group looked at the smaller boats kept outside and viewed the smack, *Rosina*, awaiting restoration in her shed. The group concurred with Gary's estimate of about ten years from commencement to completion of her restoration.

Continuing in a westerly direction we paid a visit to Keith (owner of the prawner *Maryl*) at French Marine Chandlery. His rolling DVD of gaffers was well received. Their purchases were placed in the hire car and we walked round to the Harbour Office.

Robin Page, Harbour Commissioner and owner of the *Alberta*, had left the smack unlocked so the group could view her below decks. Caroline at the Harbour Office kindly arranged for Chris Scott to run the group out to the *Alberta* on the Heritage Pontoon where lots more photos were taken. Bob and Jo Adams then came and ran the group to the Colne Yacht Club jetty, where we were met by Caroline Canham and there was talk of a large iced cake. After negotiating the boarding plank the group had a tour of Caroline's smack, *Pemberth of Clyde*. Caroline and her mother answered various questions, before our friends from Flensburg then went ashore where we said our goodbyes.

Martin Schultz, in his excellent English, had explained to us the origins of his group. The Historic Harbour, Flensburg Ltd. is a German/EU funded project to help the traditional maritime institutions in Flensburg (Steamer *Alexandra*, Classic Yachts, Museumharbour, Maritime Museum) organize themselves. The idea is that with a professional



crew in a proper bureau, the clubs will have access to help. The Historic Harbour Flensburg Ltd. is a Germany/EU funded project to help those traditional maritime institutions with their paperwork, and those boats who do charter have a professional team to get guests for their trips. The other thing the Historic Harbour do is organize and manage the regattas and harbour festivals which Flensburg is known for. The Historic Harbour organizes the RumRegatta and initiated the Kongelig Classic last year – the Kongelig Classic is a regatta from

Flensburg to Aabenraa in Denmark and has its origin in the 1855 Regatta (the first in the Baltic – predating the first regatta in Kiel by 27 years), which was initiated by English engineers back then. The RumRegatta is part of the German/Danish cooperative effort to maintain and publicise the combined maritime heritage of the two nations.

A question Martin did ask me was why is the CSPS not aligned to Maritime Heritage East – this is something the committee will explore.

## The Colne Smack Preservation Society's

# Annual General Meeting

And

## Photographic Competition

Will be held on

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2pm in the British Legion Hall, Sydney Street.

NO PARKING (nearest car park is outside the YMCA Hall in the High Street)

**Please see the letter included with this newsletter for more information.**



**Forthcoming Events...**

Harwich Sea Shanty Festival	11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Smack Dock Clear-up day	13 <sup>th</sup> October
CSPS a.g.m. and photo competition	16 <sup>th</sup> November

Photo of *Gladys* LO195 at the 2013 Blackwater Match by David Chandler